BBC

INSIDE ENGLAND'S MEDIEVAL CIVIL WAR

INFAMOUS MOBSTER AL CAPONE

HISTORY REVEALED

YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR

The causes, conflicts and consequences of America's quest for independence

THE POISONOUS SOLICITOR
A 1920s MURDER MYSTERY

THE INCREDIBLE LIFE OF DIDO BELLE

PLUS Oscar Wilde's tragic end Q&A: What is the world's oldest joke?

9 772632 693042 07 >
ISSUE 107 / MAY 2022 / £5.50

This was Sylvia's promise to you...

A generation ago, a woman named Sylvia made a promise. As a doctor's secretary, she'd watched stroke destroy the lives of so many people. She was determined to make sure we could all live in a world where we're far less likely to lose our lives to stroke.

She kept her promise, and a gift to the Stroke Association was included in her Will. Sylvia's gift helped fund the work that made sure many more of us survive stroke now than did in her lifetime.

Sylvia changed the story for us all. Now it's our turn to change the story for those who'll come after us.

Stroke still shatters lives and tears families apart. And for so many survivors the road to recovery is still long and desperately lonely. If you or someone you love has been affected by stroke – you'll know just what that means.

But it doesn't have to be like this. You can change the story, just like Sylvia did, with a gift in your Will. All it takes is a promise.

You can promise future generations a world where researchers discover new treatments and surgeries and every single stroke survivor has the best care, rehabilitation and support network possible, to help them rebuild their lives.

Big or small, every legacy gift left to the Stroke Association will make a difference to stroke survivors and their families.

Find out how by calling 020 7566 1505

or email legacy@stroke.org.uk

or visit stroke.org.uk/legacy

Rebuilding lives after stroke

The Stroke Association is registered as a charity in England and Wales (No 211015) and in Scotland (SC037789).
Also registered in the Isle of Man (No. 945) and Jersey (NPO 369), and operating as a charity in Northern Ireland.

Stroke Association

WELCOME MAY 2022

This month's Essential Guide traces the battles, bloodshed and beliefs that led to the birth of the United States

In 1783 – two years after the British surrender at Yorktown – the Treaty of Paris brought the American Revolutionary War to an official end. For eight long years, the 13 North American colonies had fought for independence from British rule in a host of bloody battles and skirmishes that had seen tens of thousands of people killed and injured. The Constitution of the United States came into effect on 4 March 1789, and so the US as we know it was born. In this month's Essential Guide, we've teamed up with Professor Benjamin Carp to **explore how, when and why war broke out in 1775, and meet the men and women involved**. Turn to page 28 to get started.

Elsewhere, we examine a real-life murder mystery from the 1920s that could have come straight from the pages of an Agatha Christie novel. **Expect professional rivalries, suspicious neighbours and poisoned scones!** Discover the remarkable story on page 59.

Also this month, we investigate the **tragic decline of Oscar Wilde** following his release from prison in 1897 (*page 16*) and analyse a unique painting that can help shed light on the **lives of people of colour in 18th-century England** (*page 64*).

Plus, we look at a selection of **objects and ideas that have been consigned to the pages of history** – from skirt grips to anti-gravitational underwear (*page 66*) and consider **what might have happened had Empress Matilda emerged victorious over King Stephen** during England's 12th-century civil war (*page 70*).

See you next month!

Charlotte Hodgman
Editor

THIS MONTH'S BIG NUMBERS

100m
The amount, in dollars, that Al Capone's gang reportedly made from illegal activities each year.

46
The quantity of tea, in tonnes, that was dumped in Boston Harbor in protest against the 1773 Tea Act.

13,490
The number of cases tried by Isaac Charles Parker – known as the 'Hanging Judge' of the Old West.

GET INVOLVED

FIND US ONLINE
Visit our online home, ***historyextra.com***, for a wealth of exciting content on British and world history, as well as an extensive archive of magazine content from *BBC History Revealed* and our sister publication *BBC History Magazine*.

HISTORY EXTRA PODCAST
Download episodes for free from iTunes and other providers, or via *historyextra.com/podcast*

CONTACT US
facebook.com/HistoryExtra
twitter.com/HistoryExtra
@HistoryExtra

EMAIL US: haveyoursay@historyrevealed.com
OR POST: Have Your Say, *BBC History Revealed*, Immediate Media, Eagle House, Colston Avenue, Bristol, BS1 4ST
EDITORIAL ENQUIRIES: 0117 927 9009

SUBSCRIPTION ENQUIRIES:
PHONE: 03330 162 116
EMAIL: historyrevealed@buysubscriptions.com
POST: *BBC History Revealed*, PO Box 3320, 3 Queensbridge, Northampton, NN4 7BF
OVERSEAS: In the US/Canada you can contact us at: Immediate Media, 2900 Veterans Hwy, Bristol PA, 19007, USA
immediatemedia@buysubscriptions.com
Toll-free 855 8278 639

GET YOUR DIGITAL COPY
Digital versions of *BBC History Revealed* are available for iOS, Kindle Fire, PC and Mac. Visit iTunes, Amazon or *zinio.com* to find out more.

USPS Identification Statement
BBC History Revealed (ISSN 2632-6930) (USPS 022-450) May 2022 is published 13 times a year (monthly, with a Christmas issue in December) by Immediate Media Company London Limited, Vineyard House, 44 Brook Green, Hammersmith, London, W6 7BT, UK. Distributed in the US by NPS Media Group, 2 Enterprise Drive, Suite 420, Shelton, CT 06484. Periodicals postage paid at Shelton, CT and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to *BBC History Revealed*, PO Box 401, Williamsport, PA 17703, USA

ON THE COVER: CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT: GEORGE WASHINGTON, THAYENDANEGEA (JOSEPH BRANT), PHILLIS WHEATLEY, GEORGE III, THOMAS JEFFERSON, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN – GETTY IMAGES X9, ALAMY X3 / ON THIS PAGE: GETTY X1, JENI NOTT X1

CONTENTS MAY 2022

YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR

30 American Revolutionary War timeline
We chart the conflict's most significant milestones

32 Everything you wanted to know about the American Revolutionary War
Professor Benjamin Carp answers the big questions

36 How the war began
Discover what drove frustrated colonists to take up arms

40 The Declaration of Independence
We reveal five things you may not know about this sacred American document

42 Key people of the war
Meet the cast of characters whose names loom large over this defining period in global history

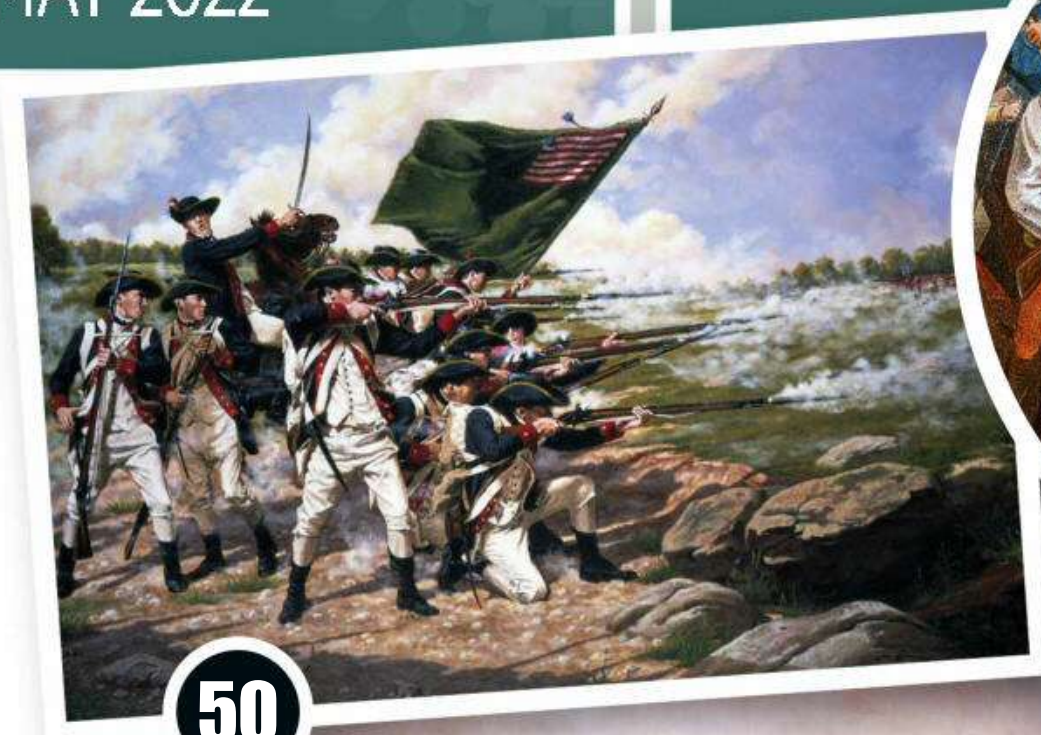
48 Revolutionary women
Learn how wives and families supported the war effort

50 The battles that created a nation
Explore the deadly clashes that ended countless lives

54 The conflict in facts and figures
A look at the war's staggering casualty statistics, and more

56 From revolution to resolution
How was peace negotiated once the British had surrendered?

58 Get hooked
Take the topic further with our pick of TV, radio and podcasts



50

▲ Why did George Washington cross the Delaware? Discover the background to the war's most famous battles

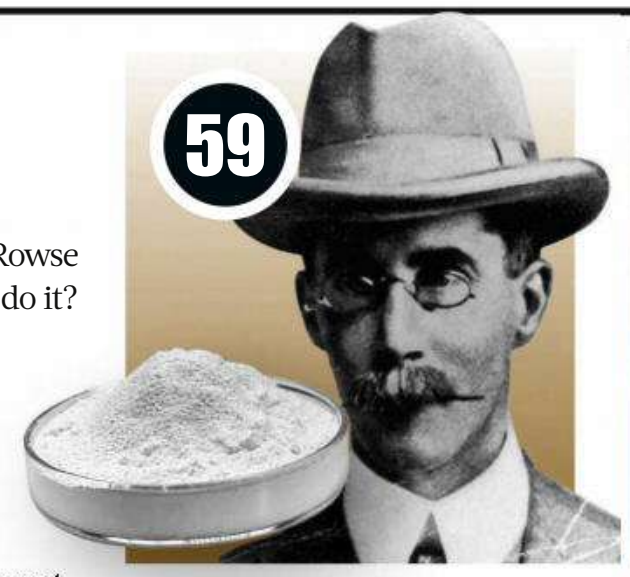
FEATURES

59 A most unlikely suspect
In May 1922, a respected country solicitor named Major Herbert Rowse Armstrong was convicted of poisoning his wife. But did he really do it?

64 What Great Paintings Say
We explore the story of Dido Belle, whose sole surviving portrait sheds light on the experiences of people of colour in the 1700s

66 Obsolete objects
A look at 10 unusual innovations that have been consigned to the past

70 What if... Matilda had defeated Stephen?



59

▲ Inside the poisoning case that shocked 1920s Britain

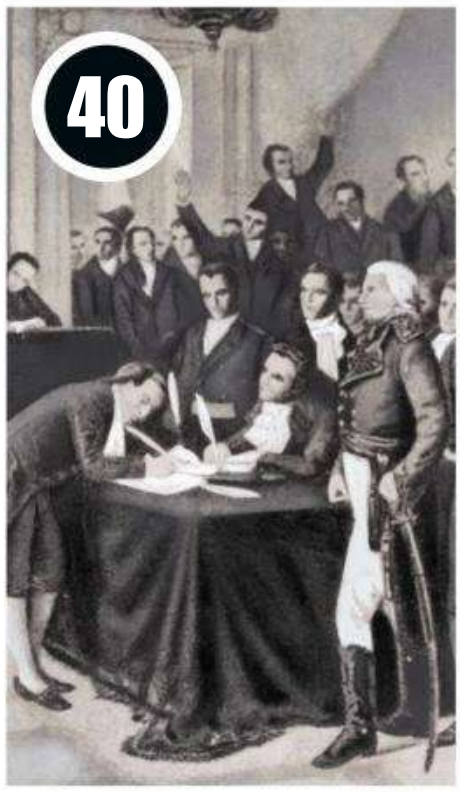
64

▲ The powerful story behind an 18th-century portrait

GETTY IMAGES X10, ALAMY X3, VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM, LONDON: (T.30-1992) X1, COLLECTION OF AMY DE LA HAYE X1

30

◀ Follow the milestones that changed the course of the conflict and paved the way for the creation of the United States

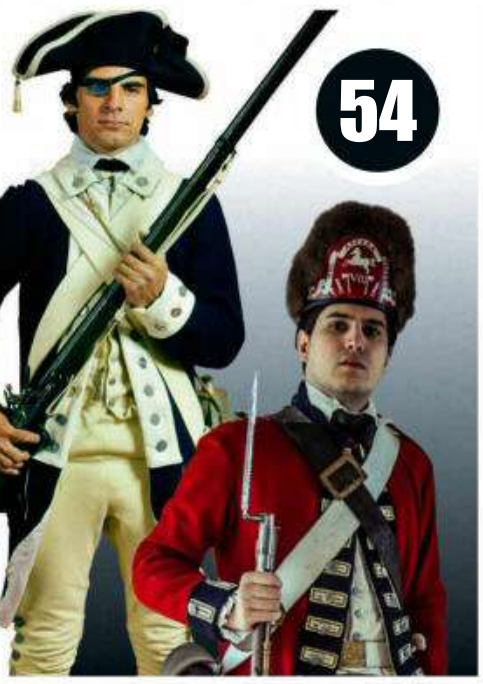


40

▲ How was the Declaration of Independence drafted?

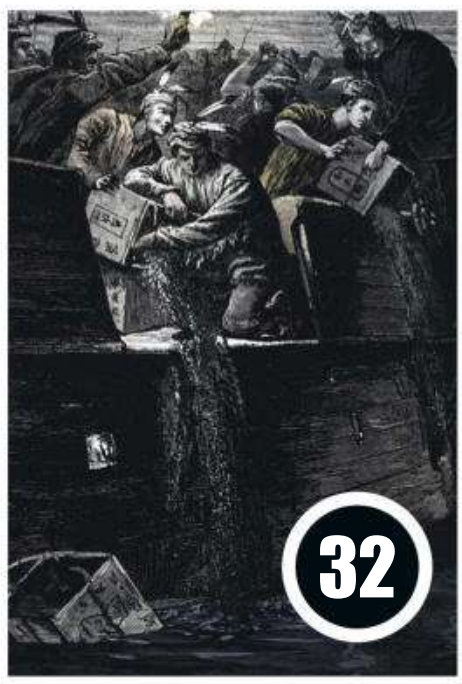
48

▲ Why women played a vital role during the conflict



54

▲ Find out what soldiers wore on the battlefield



32

▲ The inside story behind the Boston Tea Party of 1773

66

◀ Why paper dresses and skirt grips fell out of fashion

70

▲ Would Empress Matilda have been a successful queen of England?

EVERY MONTH

6 Snapshots
Veterans mark the end of WWI, and more

12 What We've Learned This Month
An expedition to find Shackleton's ship, a Roman discovery near the Shard, and more

14 My Life in History
Owen Horsley, director at the RSC

16 This Month in... 1897
Oscar Wilde is released from prison

19 Paranormal Cold Case
Danny Robins discusses an Enfield haunting

21 In a Nutshell
The story of the Evil May Day Riots

24 Spotlight on... Al Capone
Discover how the gangster rose to infamy

73 Q&A
How did Russians react to Stalin's death? This, and other historical questions answered

79 TV, Film & Radio
This month's history entertainment

82 What's On
Five historical experiences to try this month

84 Books & Podcasts
The latest historical releases and podcasts

86 Historical Fiction
Paddy Crewe shares an extract from his debut novel, *My Name is Yip*

87 Prize Crossword

88 Letters

89 Next Issue

90 Photo Finish

LIKE IT? SUBSCRIBE!
GET 44% OFF SHOP PRICE

26

SNAPSHOTS

c1920
SKILLS FOR LIFE

Cookery was just one of the many skills that students were taught at the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute in Virginia. The school was founded in 1868 with the primary task of educating formerly enslaved people, and later Native Americans. Students were taught reading, arithmetic and housekeeping, and trades such as carpentry, tailoring and teaching. Today it's known as Hampton University and black students still make up the majority of its intake. One of the Institute's most prominent graduates was Booker T Washington, who became a leading voice for African-Americans in the late 19th century, as well as a principal at the Tuskegee Institute, a historically black teacher-training school.

GETTY IMAGES

SNAPSHOTS

1919 FINDING PEACE?

In an image taken on the day the Treaty of Versailles was signed, British veterans in London celebrate peace after serving during World War I. Around 41,000 soldiers endured amputations due to their injuries and many of the operations were carried out with a guillotine – often leaving the patients with lifelong and debilitating nerve pain. In addition to their physical ailments, the veterans had witnessed horrors their loved ones back home couldn't even begin to comprehend. Post-traumatic stress disorder was at best poorly understood during this era and returning to civilian life could be extremely challenging.

GETTY IMAGES

SNAPSHOTS

c1912 HIGH SOCIETY

As skyscrapers began to dominate urban skylines in the United States during the early decades of the 20th century, they became a source of fascination for the public. Just how fascinating is demonstrated by these brave, or perhaps foolish, visitors in New York City, teetering (in heels!) on the edge of a high-rise construction site, with the Municipal Building below them, on the left of the image. One wrong step could have led to disaster, but being able to say you had stood at one of the highest points of the city probably made it worthwhile. If visiting the sites was perilous, working on them could be deadly. It was said at the time that for every $1m spent on these buildings, at least one worker was killed.

GETTY IMAGES

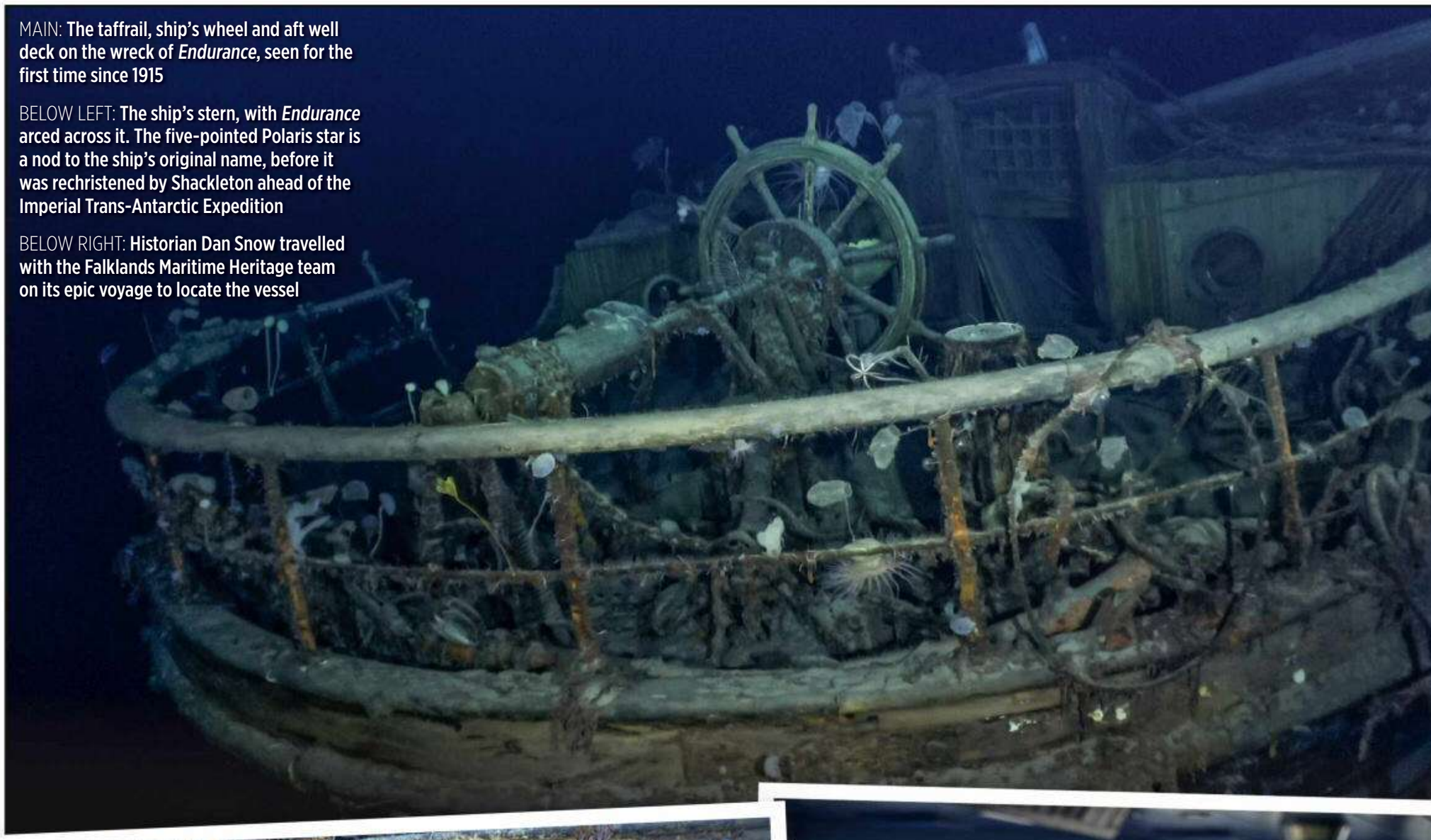
THINGS WE LEARNED THIS MONTH...

RECENT HISTORY HEADLINES THAT CAUGHT OUR EYE

MAIN: **The taffrail, ship's wheel and aft well deck on the wreck of *Endurance*, seen for the first time since 1915**

BELOW LEFT: **The ship's stern, with *Endurance* arced across it. The five-pointed Polaris star is a nod to the ship's original name, before it was rechristened by Shackleton ahead of the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition**

BELOW RIGHT: **Historian Dan Snow travelled with the Falklands Maritime Heritage team on its epic voyage to locate the vessel**



SHACKLETON'S ENDURANCE FOUND IN THE ANTARCTIC

The wreck of HMS *Endurance*, the ill-fated vessel of Sir Ernest Shackleton's 1914–17 Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition, has been located at the bottom of the Weddell Sea, nearly 107 years after it sank. Standing upright on the seabed, at a depth of 3,008 metres, the ship is said to look much as it did on 21 November 1915, when it finally succumbed to the crushing sea-ice that had encased it for months and sank into the icy water below, forcing Shackleton and his crew to escape on foot and in small boats.

The 35-day mission to locate *Endurance* was organised and funded by the Falklands Maritime Heritage Trust, which navigated heavy sea ice, blizzards and temperatures as low as -18˚C in a bid to find and record the wreck site. Although remotely operated submersibles have spotted artefacts including boots and crockery, the wreck's status as a designated monument under the International Antarctic Treaty means it will not be disturbed.

LONDON'S LARGEST ROMAN MOSAIC IN 50 YEARS UNCOVERED NEAR THE SHARD

A lavish, eight-metre-long Roman mosaic has been unearthed in central London, just a few minutes' walk from The Shard. Dating from the late second century AD to the early third century AD, the richly decorated mosaic, which features geometric patterns and lotus flowers, is thought to have once graced the floor of a *triclinium* – a formal dining room with reclining couches. The room may have been part of a larger *mansio*, a type of motel that would have served well-to-do Romans travelling to and from Londinium over the river.

PREHISTORIC BURIAL MOUND FOUND BENEATH OXFORD COLLEGE

Archaeologists believe they may have found evidence of a 4,000-year-old Bronze Age burial mound during construction work near Frewin Hall, Oxford. Excavations at the site, which belongs to Brasenose College, have already unearthed the remains of the 15th-century St Mary's College, but recent discoveries indicate that a prehistoric burial mound was also once located there. Among the recent finds are a fragment of a skull, part of a human jawbone, and remains said to be typical of a Bronze Age barrow used for human burials.

PICTISH STONE UNEARTHED NEAR SEVENTH-CENTURY BATTLE SITE

A rare Pictish stone, discovered in 2020 but which remained only partially excavated due to the Covid 19 pandemic, has finally been recovered. The carved artefact, one of only 200 ever found and measuring 1.7 metres (5.5ft), was unearthed near the suspected location of the battle of Dun Nechtain (also known as the battle of Nechtansmere), where the Picts emerged victorious over the Northumbrian Angles in AD 685. Excavations at the site began after evidence of a settlement was spotted during a geophysical survey of a farmer's field.

£174,600

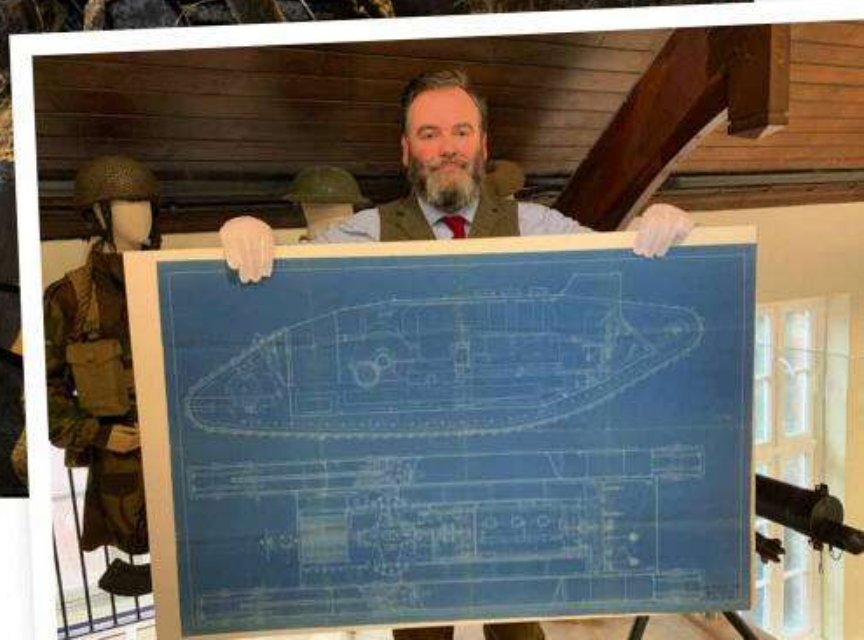
The price paid at auction for a rare Edward III gold florin, dating from 1344 and featuring the image of a sitting leopard

MAIN: **Curator David Willey pictured with The Tank Museum's treasured Mark I – the only surviving example in the world**

BELOW RIGHT: **Auctioneer Paul Laidlaw holds the Mark I blueprints purchased by the museum**

MUSEUM SECURES BLUEPRINT FOR HISTORIC WWI TANK

The Tank Museum in Dorset has managed to secure at auction the plans and patent for the first tank to be used in combat: the Mark I. The documents, which were purchased for £14,600, date to May 1916 and include the 112cm x 71cm (44 x 28 inches) blueprint – the only known example of its kind for a Mark I. Made by agricultural machinery company William Foster & Co of Lincoln, the armoured vehicle – of which 150 were built – was first deployed on the battlefield in September 1916 during the Somme Offensive.



FALKLANDS MARITIME HERITAGE/NICK BIRTWISTLE X3, OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY X1, MOLA/ANDY CHOPPING X1, THE TANK MUSEUM X2, UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN X1

“I’m continually amazed by the incredible insight and empathy Shakespeare shows for the human experience”

MAIN: **Mark Quartley plays the beleaguered Lancastrian monarch Henry VI in the Royal Shakespeare Company’s upcoming productions *Rebellion* and *Wars of the Roses***

BELOW, FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: **Mark Quartley and Richard Cant (Gloucester) consult director Owen Horsley during rehearsals; Daniel Ward (Buckingham) practices a dramatic scene; Richard Cant and Minnie Gale (Margaret) deliver dialogue as Oliver Alvin-Wilson (York) looks on**

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY/ELLIE KURTTZ

Director at the Royal Shakespeare Company

Owen Horsley

WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO BECOME A THEATRE DIRECTOR AND WORK WITH SHAKESPEARE'S PLAYS?

I knew I wanted to be a theatre director from the age of 15 when I directed a production of *Dracula* at school. It was a life changing experience to be able to tell stories on stage and communicate to audiences.

Regarding Shakespeare specifically, I had always loved his plays as a child, but it was when I first started working with [theatre company] Cheek by Jowl that I knew classical theatre was for me. Not only was I lucky enough to be able to work on some truly amazing productions that toured around the world, but I was also able to see the impact of Shakespeare globally; his works transcend language, culture and borders.

I joined the Royal Shakespeare Company [RSC] in 2013, and since then I have totally immersed myself in the works of Shakespeare. It's always the language that brings me back to him for a writer to be able to find the words to articulate such variety of human experience is simply incredible.

COULD YOU TELL US ABOUT THE PLAYS YOU ARE CURRENTLY DIRECTING FOR THE RSC?

Henry VI, Parts 2 and 3 are two rarely performed Shakespeare plays that depict the events leading up to the Wars of the Roses [1455 87], which was one of the bloodiest periods in English history. It is an epic story about feuding families, politics, power, ego and barbarism. In this version, I have edited the plays so that all five battles take place in the second part, which we are calling *Wars of the Roses*, while the events that lead us to the battlefield are depicted in the first part, which we have entitled *Rebellion*.

WHAT ARE THE KEY CHALLENGES WHEN DIRECTING A SHAKESPEARE PLAY?

One of the challenges when it comes to directing Shakespeare is the sheer scale of it. It's not just the story itself and the number of fights and characters you have to consider, but also the scale of the language and the arguments. It is a real workout both physically and mentally to invest and commit to them. But that is also the total joy of working with Shakespeare. During rehearsals we have the pleasure of grappling with these huge themes, which we then get to share with an audience. Challenging, but incredibly thrilling.

Owen Horsley's previous directing credits include *The Famous Victories of Henry V* – a single production combining elements of Shakespeare's *Henry IV, Parts 1 and 2* and *Henry V*

HOW DO YOU ENGAGE A MODERN AUDIENCE WHILE STAYING TRUE TO THE SCRIPT?

With *Wars of the Roses* and *Rebellion*, I have edited the original text to create something that feels more filmic, immediate and urgent. While I haven't changed the language itself, I have done this because I feel that modern audiences often respond well to a certain speed of storytelling that they are familiar with due to their engagement with TV and film.

I also think that these works which Shakespeare wrote when he was 27 feel very young and energetic, so I was motivated to highlight this in my edit. There is a roughness to them, and I never wanted to get in the way of that. So, although my version is very much an interpretation, I hope they represent the essence of what Shakespeare was trying to achieve.

THESE PLAYS DEAL WITH REAL EVENTS AND FIGURES. DOES THIS MAKE IT EASIER OR HARDER WHEN DIRECTING?

There are two versions of history for me real history and Shakespeare's history. In these works, Shakespeare plays fast and loose with real history, so although as a history geek I love to read about what actually happened, it is always important for me to follow his interpretation. Shakespeare was interested in creating drama and highlighting the human struggles within the history, so that is where my attention must go as well.

For example, when depicting the battle of Towton [1461], he starts with a group of egos, hell bent on revenge, flinging insults back and forth. By doing this, he reveals it is personal vendetta and pride that causes thousands of people to die, not some heroic mission. I'm continually amazed by the incredible insight and empathy Shakespeare shows for the human experience and how relevant his observations are today.

WHY DO YOU BELIEVE AUDIENCES STILL COME BACK TO SEE SHAKESPEARE?

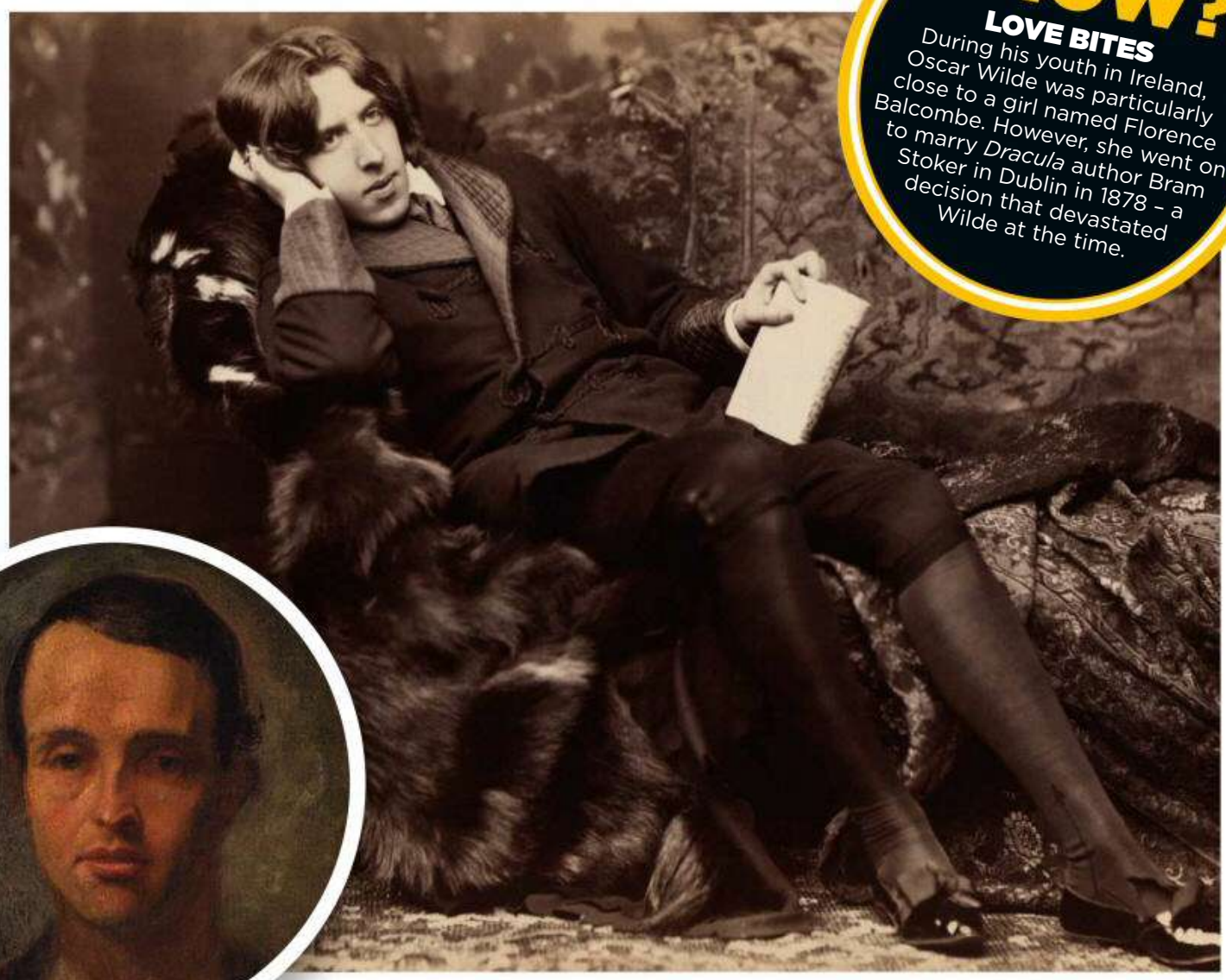
It is an interesting question and one I thought about a lot about during the Covid lockdowns. As I say, it comes back to how Shakespeare presents the full breadth of human experience in his plays and how, over the centuries, these experiences still resonate with us. Whether it is a Scottish king holding two bloody daggers or a young girl standing on a balcony, he writes about the unresolved matters that surround our lives.

Similarly, as Henry VI sits on a molehill watching the bloodshed before him, he imagines another life one of routine and order and wishes to be released from the burden and pain he feels as king. No one in the audience is a king, but as he articulates that need, I think we feel our own sense of despair and helplessness when faced with war.

OWEN HORSLEY is directing the Royal Shakespeare Company's new productions *Henry VI: Rebellion* (1 April – 28 May) and *Wars of the Roses* (11 April – 4 June) at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon. For further information, visit *rsc.org.uk*

Oscar Wilde is released from prison

Words: Emma Slattery Williams



DID YOU KNOW?

LOVE BITES

During his youth in Ireland, Oscar Wilde was particularly close to a girl named Florence Balcombe. However, she went on to marry *Dracula* author Bram Stoker in Dublin in 1878 – a decision that devastated Wilde at the time.

No crowds gathered in May 1897 to see Oscar Wilde's release from prison. Although Wilde had once been the most famous man in London, celebrated as much for his witticisms and dandyism as his writing, his release took place with little fanfare. It was all in sharp contrast to the scandal caused by the infamous trials that led to the poet and playwright's imprisonment; court cases that revealed Wilde's homosexuality to the wider world.

The lack of reporters was a matter of design. On 18 May 1897, Wilde, who spent most of his two year sentence in Reading Gaol, was quietly transferred to Pentonville. On his release the next day, Wilde was met by More Adey, his friend and editor, and Stewart Headlam, an Anglican vicar who, even though he had never personally met Wilde, had put up bail money on Wilde's behalf. Once at Headlam's home, Wilde put on a fresh set of clothes and basked in his freedom. Soon, he was excitedly discussing the many books he had asked people to buy for him, including works by John Keats, Alexandre Dumas and Dante. That evening, Wilde sailed to France and, never to return to Britain, an impoverished existence in exile.

It was a bitter conclusion to a life that had so often featured glittering success. Born to Anglo Irish parents in Dublin in 1854, the youthful Wilde won scholarships both to Trinity College Dublin and to Oxford's Magdalen College, where he studied classics. In 1882, Wilde gave a lecture tour of North America. Scheduled to last four months, his talks were such a hit that he was away for close to a year. From the eerie philosophical novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1891) to *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895), a farce considered to be the greatest of his stage plays, his writing displayed his enormous range.

ABOVE: **A portrait of Robert Ross, who became a lifelong friend of Oscar Wilde following a brief affair**

TOP RIGHT: **Wilde pictured around 1882. The Irish-born author was known for his flamboyance and witticisms**

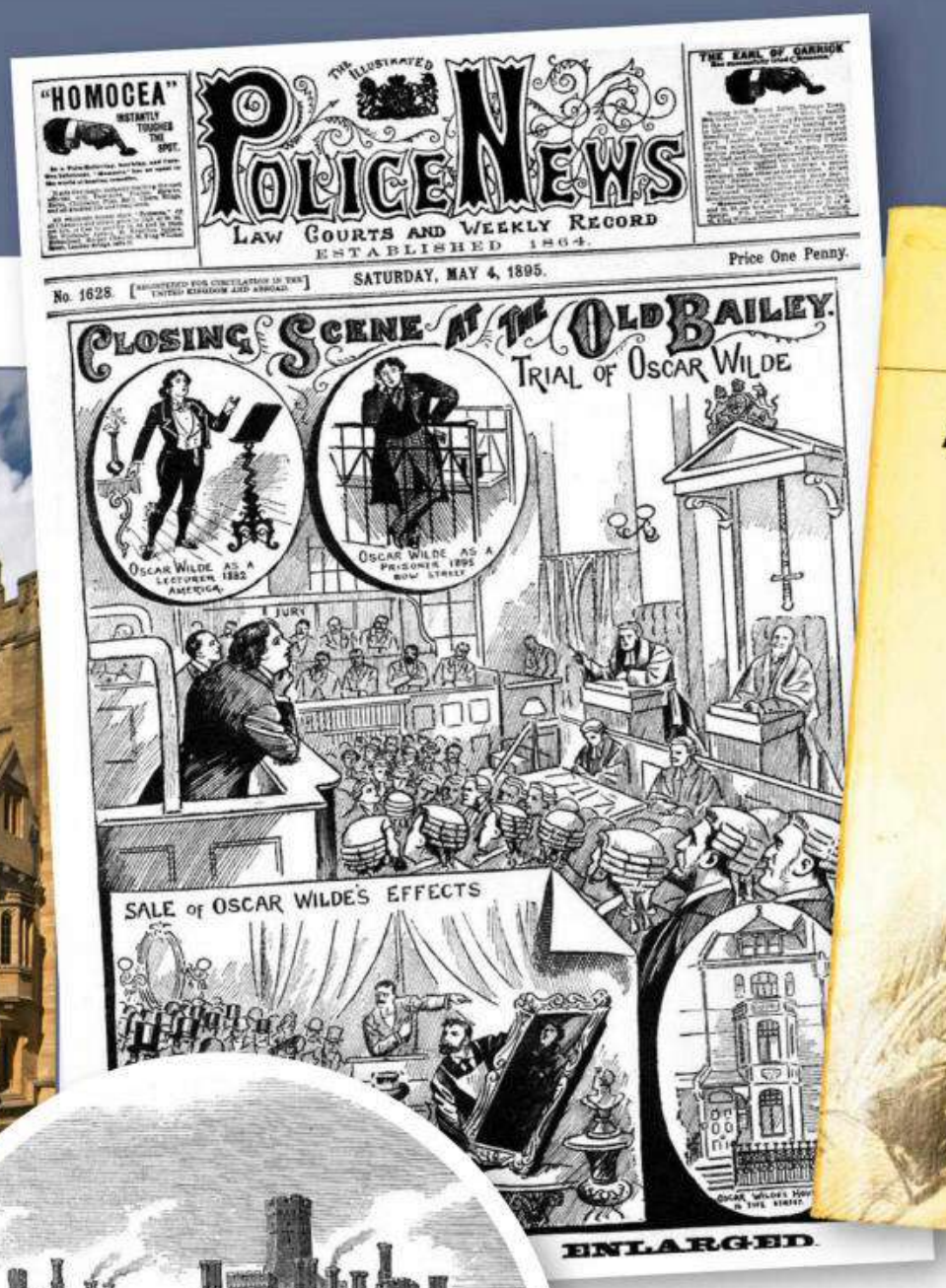
GETTY IMAGES X4, ALAMY X2

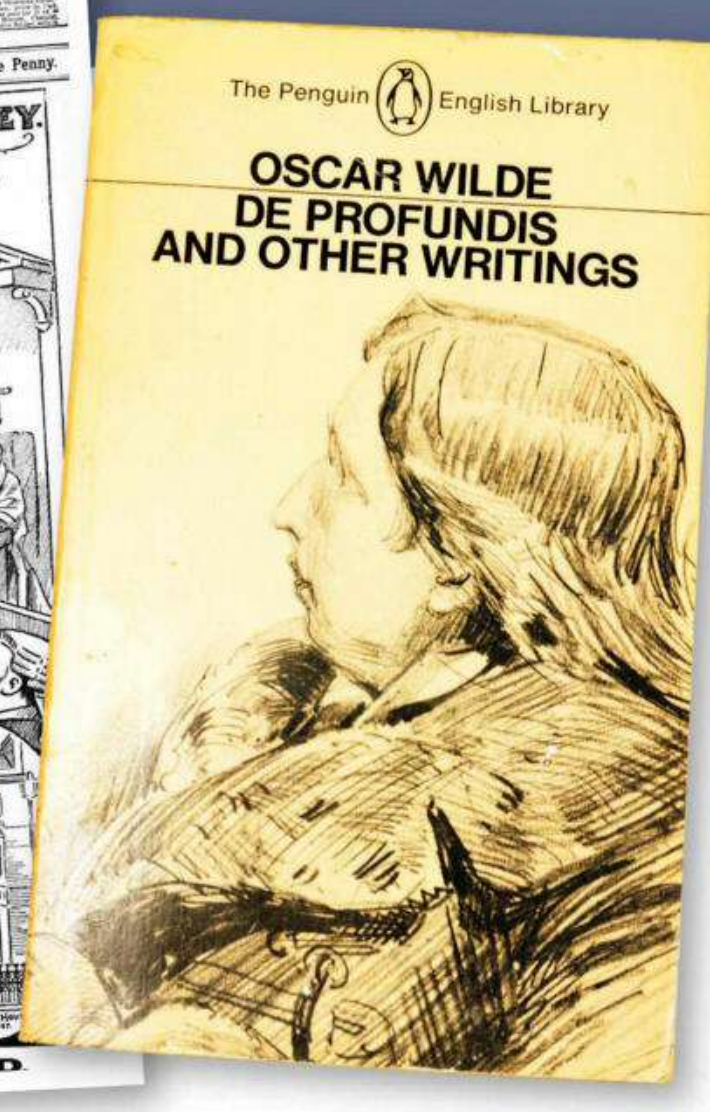
WILDE OF HEART

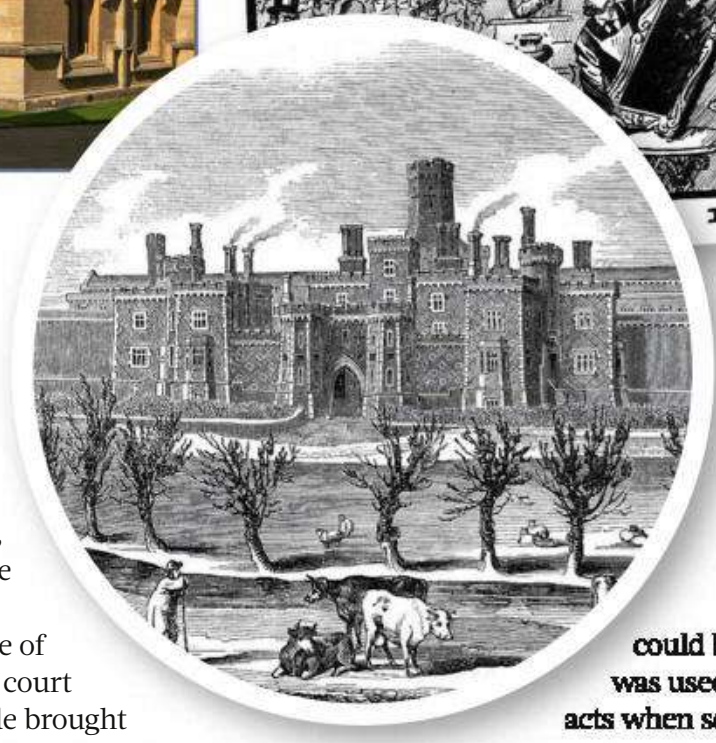
In 1884, Wilde married Constance Lloyd and they had two sons. But soon after his wife's second pregnancy, Wilde began a short affair with 17 year old Robert Ross. It was likely Wilde's first same sex relationship. The two would remain friends for the rest of Wilde's life.

Another affair had far more lasting consequences for Wilde. In 1891, he became a friend and lover of Lord Alfred Douglas, a young man 16 years his junior and known as 'Bosie'. Unlike Wilde, who managed to keep his homosexuality mostly hidden except for themes within his work Douglas was far less discreet and frittered away large amounts of money on young men. Douglas was the son of a Scottish peer, the Marquess of Queensberry, who strongly disapproved both of Bosie's lifestyle and of his relationship with Wilde.

In 1895, Queensberry visited Wilde's favourite London club, the Albemarle. In order to provoke Wilde, he left his calling card, which said: "For Oscar Wilde, posing as a somdomite [sic]." Queensberry was







publicly accusing Wilde of homosexuality a serious charge. Leaving aside the prevailing attitudes of the era, homosexual acts between men in public or private were illegal, and until 1861, could have been punishable by death.

Acting against the advice of his friends who believed a court case would ruin him, Wilde brought a libel lawsuit against Queensberry. Wilde assured his lawyer that the allegations of homosexuality against him were untrue, and Douglas, who had a difficult relationship with his father, was confident Wilde would win. This confidence was misplaced. Queensberry's lawyers painted Wilde as a predator and said they could produce several male prostitutes who would testify that Wilde had paid them for sex.

Queensberry won the case, which ultimately bankrupted Wilde because he became liable for Queensberry's expenses. Douglas fled to Europe, but Wilde stayed in Britain. A warrant was issued for his arrest. In April 1895, a first trial for 'gross indecency' saw the jury unable to come to a verdict. Following a retrial with a less lenient judge, Wilde was found guilty. Onlookers shouted "shame" at him while he was taken down. On 25 May he was sentenced to two years' imprisonment with hard labour – the maximum sentence that could be given. 'Gross indecency' was used to prosecute homosexual acts when sodomy could not be conclusively proven. The judge described his punishment as "totally inadequate" given the seriousness of his "crime". The damage to Wilde's reputation, at least in his own lifetime, was irreparable.

> "The judge described Wilde's punishment as 'totally inadequate' given the seriousness of his 'crime'"

ABOVE: **A 19th-century illustration of Reading Gaol, where Wilde spent the majority of his prison sentence**

TOP LEFT: **A view of Magdalen College, Oxford, where Wilde studied as a young man in the 1870s**

TOP CENTRE: **Wilde's 'gross indecency' trial was widely covered by the national press**

TOP RIGHT: **A copy of *De Profundis*, penned by Wilde while in prison. Originally a letter written for Lord Alfred Douglas, it was first published in 1905**

LIFE AS PRISONER C33

Wilde was imprisoned, initially at Pentonville, before being moved to Wandsworth and finally Reading Gaol. When being transferred between prisons, he was recognised and had abuse hurled at him. While being forced to wait in the rain on once such occasion, he is said to have remarked: "If this is the way Queen Victoria treats her prisoners, she doesn't deserve to have any." While incarcerated, he had to walk for hours on a treadmill and pick oakum an arduous task that involved untwisting old strands of rope. For someone of Wilde's talents, the lack of reading material may have come as a greater hardship. Literature was initially restricted to the Bible and *The Pilgrim's Progress*, until RB Haldane sourced books for Wilde while he was investigating prison conditions. Wilde's incarceration took its toll on his health, too, as he suffered from dysentery and injured his ear during a fall.

Wilde was at least able to continue to write in prison. Although he was forbidden from penning poetry or prose, letter writing was permitted with no restrictions on how long the letter could be. Wilde wrote a 50,000 word letter to Douglas, which became known as *De Profundis* ('From the Depths'), in which he discussed both their relationship and his own spiritual development. Wilde's mother Jane died in 1896. Her request to visit her son in prison before she died was refused, but Wilde later claimed to have seen her apparition in his cell at around the same time as she passed.

During his time in prison, Wilde underwent a spiritual renewal and intended to convert to Roman Catholicism. On the day of his release, he sent a message to a Jesuit house asking to complete a six month retreat with them, but this was refused. Realising it would be too difficult now to stay in Britain,

THIS MONTH... 1897

ANNIVERSARIES THAT HAVE MADE HISTORY

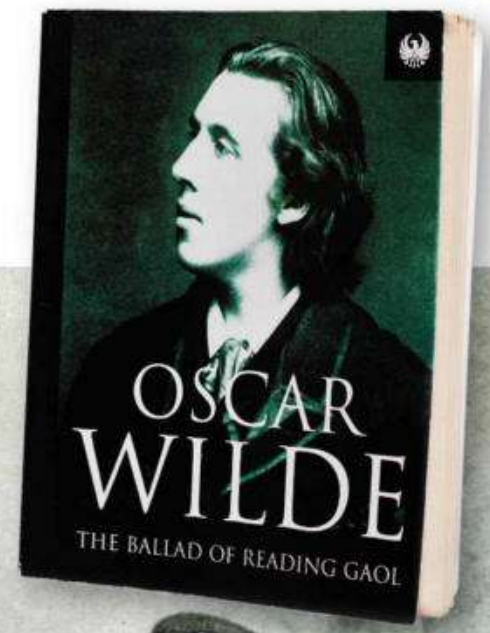
he caught a ferry to Dieppe. While he was imprisoned, Constance had taken parental rights away from Wilde. His two sons never saw their father again and their surnames were changed to distance them from the scandal.

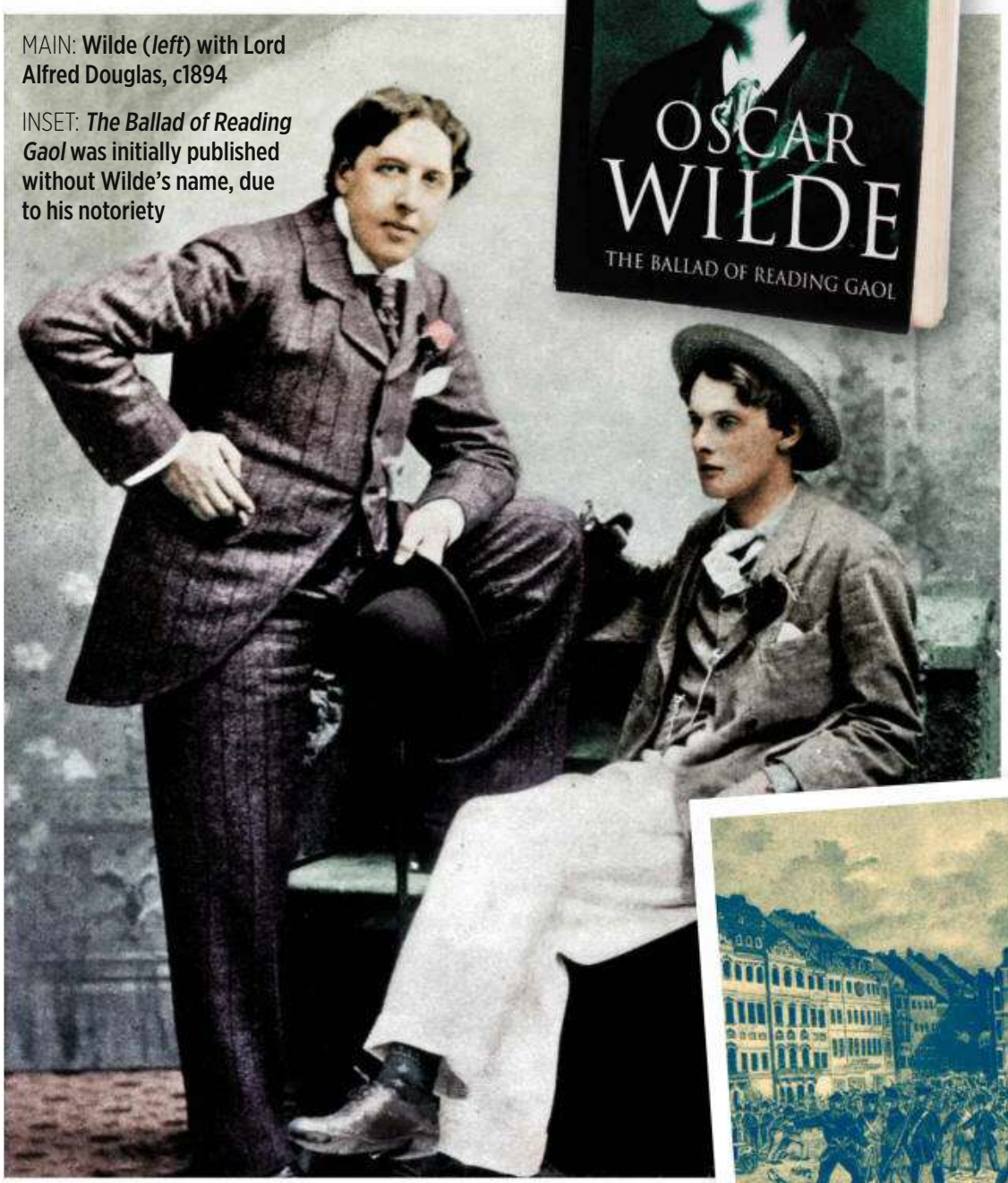
Wilde briefly resumed his relationship with Douglas in Naples, but he spent his final years almost penniless in France living between the homes of friends and cheap hotels. He spent much of his time in bars and, when he was recognised on the street, endured public humiliation and abuse. His health never truly recovered from his time in prison, and he claimed to have lost his love of writing. The only thing of note that he completed during this time was *The Ballad of Reading Gaol* the experiences of a fellow inmate on death row as well as a condemnation of the Victorian penal system. The poem was initially credited to C33 after Wilde's cell number.

He wrote many letters to British newspapers condemning British prisons: "The cruelty that is practised by day and night on children in English prisons is incredible, except to those who have witnessed it and are aware of the brutality of the system."

On 30 November 1900, Wilde died in Paris at the age of just 46. His friend Robert Ross and a priest were at his side. He was baptised into the Roman Catholic Church before his death. Wilde's final illness and death have been attributed to syphilis, but it's more likely that a reoccurring ear infection possibly caused by the injury he suffered in prison eventually led to meningoencephalitis.

In 2017, after the passing of the Turing Law named after the gay codebreaker and computer pioneer Alan Turing Wilde was among more than 50,000 men pardoned for crimes of homosexuality that, thankfully, no longer exist.





MAIN: **Wilde (*left*) with Lord Alfred Douglas, c1894**

INSET: ***The Ballad of Reading Gaol* was initially published without Wilde's name, due to his notoriety**

GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X2

BBC

EVERY MONTH THROUGHOUT 2022, WE'LL BE COMMEMORATING THE BBC'S 100TH BIRTHDAY WITH A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE...

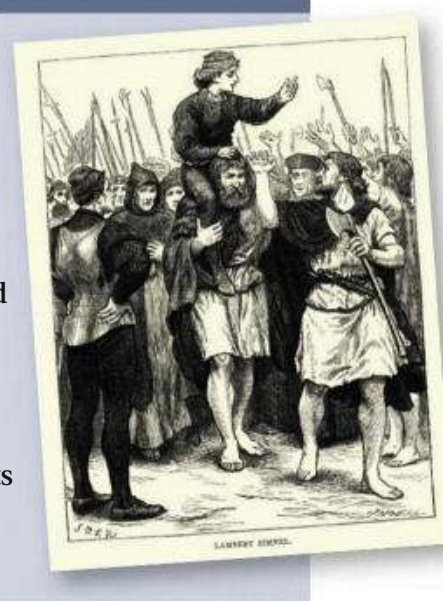
24 May 1956

EUROVISION IS FIRST TELEVISED

Hosted in Switzerland with seven countries taking part, the Eurovision Song Contest makes its debut in 1956. Although the BBC broadcasts the inaugural event – won by Swiss singer Lys Assia (*above*) – the United Kingdom doesn't enter the competition until the following year, when Patricia Bredin performs a song entitled 'All'. The contest has been held annually every year since, apart from 2020 when it was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

OTHER ANNIVERSARIES

A LOOK BACK AT OTHER EVENTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN MAY THROUGHOUT HISTORY



24 May 1487

LAMBERT SIMNEL IS CROWNED

A year after the end of the Wars of the Roses, a young man claiming to be Edward, Earl of Warwick – Richard III's heir – appears in Ireland. The real 12-year-old earl is being held in the Tower of London, but this doesn't stop the pretender's coronation. The battle of Stoke Field follows as Yorkists attempt to replace Henry VII with Simnel, but they are defeated.

3 May 1849

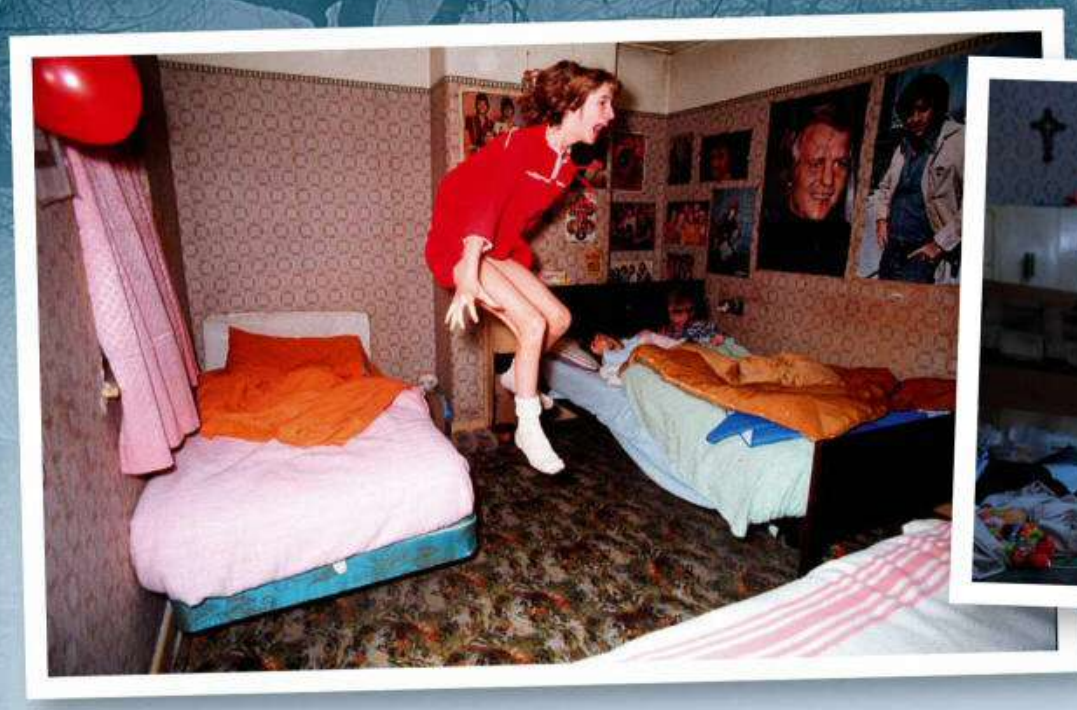
THE MAY UPRISING ENGULFS DRESDEN

A pro-democracy protest takes place in Dresden in the Kingdom of Saxony, which is only halted after six days of fierce street battles. The uprising is among the final events of the Revolutions of 1848 – a series of political upheavals across Europe that had begun the previous year.

PARANORMAL COLD CASE

INVESTIGATING HISTORY'S MOST SPINE-CHILLING ENCOUNTERS

BBC Radio's **Danny Robins** speaks to a photographer present at one of the most famous 'hauntings' in British history. But did his images capture an elaborate hoax?



LEFT: **Sterling Jerins stars in *The Conjuring 2: The Enfield Case*, a film inspired by events in 1977**

FAR LEFT: **Enfield levitation? Some think 11-year-old Janet Hodgson is being held in mid-air by a supernatural force. Others think the camera simply caught her jumping**

"Suddenly, wow! Things just started flying! Whizzing round the room," says Graham. "Kids' toys, ashtrays, cups and saucers, Lego bricks…"

Graham Morris is not the sort of person you'd expect to be attacked by a poltergeist. He's sensible and down to earth. Now, he spends his time photographing cricket, but back in the 1970s he was a jobbing photographer for the *Daily Mirror* newspaper and one of the first people on the scene of the infamous Enfield Poltergeist haunting in August 1977.

Enfield is legendary in paranormal circles, the most talked about British haunting of the past 50 years. It took place at 284 Green Street, a council house in Enfield, north London, home to 11 year old Janet Hodgson and her 13 year old sister, Margaret. They appeared to be the focus of poltergeist activity, including strange noises, objects and furniture moving, and what some believed were instances of 'possession', as Janet talked to investigators in a gruff male voice.

The case has been dramatised for TV and film, including Hollywood's *The Conjuring 2*, where the scriptwriters added in a demonic nun for good measure. It feels hard to sift fact from fiction, but talking to Graham plunges me into the reality of that semi detached suburban house in the late 1970s. When one of the family's neighbours called the *Mirror*, Graham found himself on the scene, being bombarded by a shower of flying objects.

"I got hit in the head, just above the eyebrow only a little Lego brick, but it must have been going at some speed. It gave me a lump for about four days."

There's something utterly convincing about the matter of fact way Graham describes being assaulted by supernatural forces. He became obsessed with trying to understand what was going on, spending as many as four nights a week at the house over a period of 18 months. During that time, he took a series of photographs that have become iconic. Type "Enfield levitation" into your search engine and you'll find images of Janet in a vivid red nightie, seemingly floating above her bed.

For me, the pictures get to the heart of the debate over Enfield that's raged for 45 years. Are we looking at an innocent girl tormented by paranormal forces, or a hoax perpetrated by an attention seeking child? I'm fascinated to be talking to the man who took the photos. Surely, he must know the truth?

But here, Graham disappoints me. It turns out he rigged up a camera he could operate remotely, so he didn't have to sit intrusively in the girls' bedroom. On the night in question, Janet and Margaret had gone to bed and Graham was sitting downstairs. "Then crash, bang, scream, whatever, so I hit the button and this camera has just taken pictures."

What do you see when you look at the photographs? Is Janet levitating or jumping? As with any ghost story, it's in the eye of the beholder. Enfield has become a battleground for sceptics and believers, with enough instances of potential fakery to cast doubt, but enough seemingly inexplicable incidents to allow the case to retain its mysteries.

The thing that sticks with Graham is the fear he saw in Janet and Margaret. "They were terrified," he remembers. "At no point did I ever think that anyone was doing this, certainly not the children. They wanted it to stop and go away."

I understand what he means from my own investigations into the paranormal. There's nothing more convincing than looking into someone's eyes and seeing pure, genuine, unadulterated fear.

DANNY ROBINS is a writer, broadcaster and journalist. He is the presenter of the BBC Radio 4 podcasts *The Battersea Poltergeist* and *Uncanny*, available now on BBC Sounds

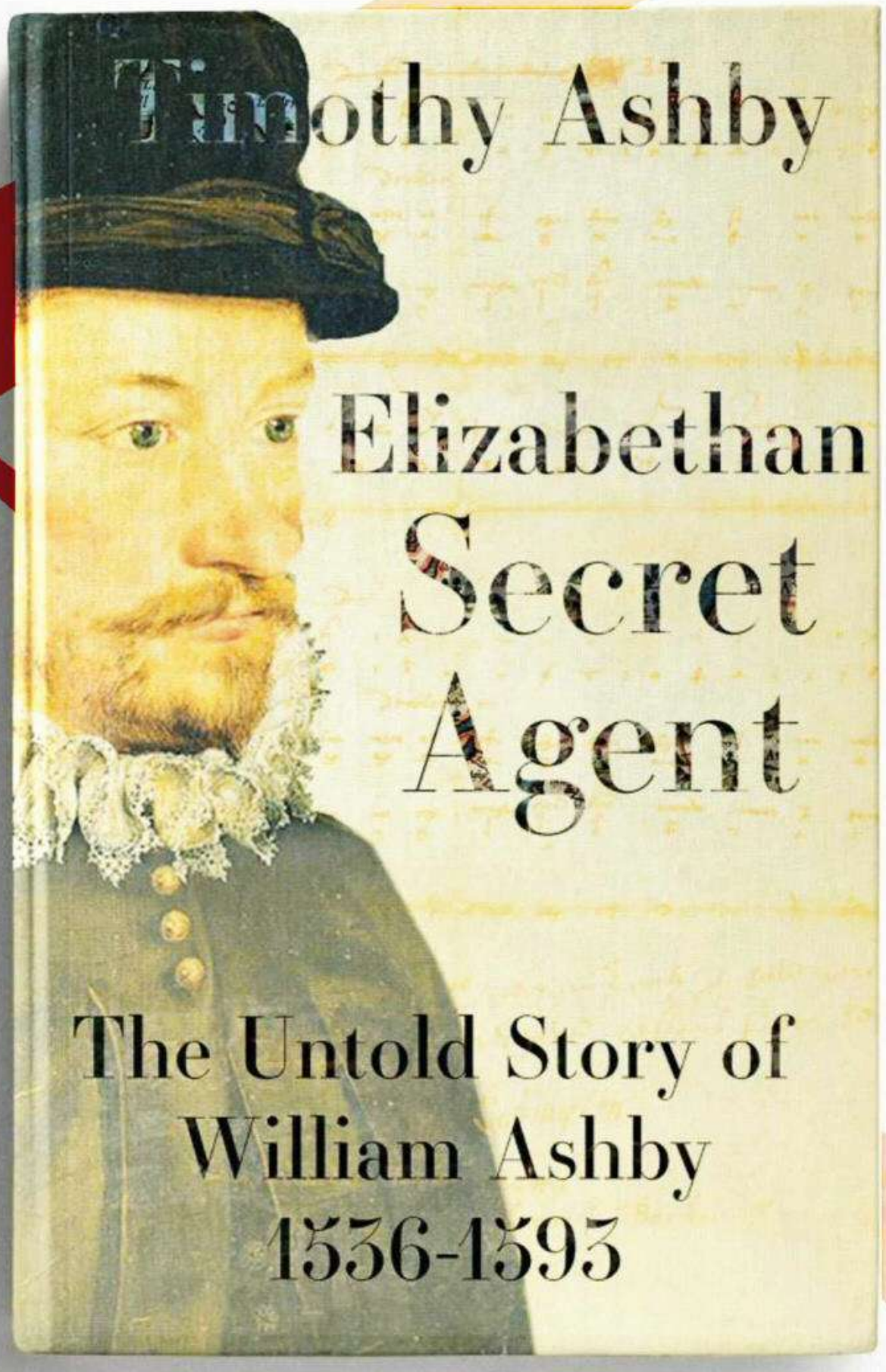
LISTEN

BBC SOUNDS

You can hear Danny's full interview with Graham in his podcast *The Battersea Poltergeist*, episode three: *bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0955cfy*

WILLIE RUNTE X1, ALAMY X1, GRAHAM MORRIS/CRICKETPIX LTD X1

SABOTAGE, ESPIONAGE AND DECEIT
THE LIFE OF ELIZABETH I's FIRST SPYMASTER



Available at
Scotlandstreetpress.com
and all good bookshops

25% off
when you purchase
from Scotland Street Press
use the code
AGENT25

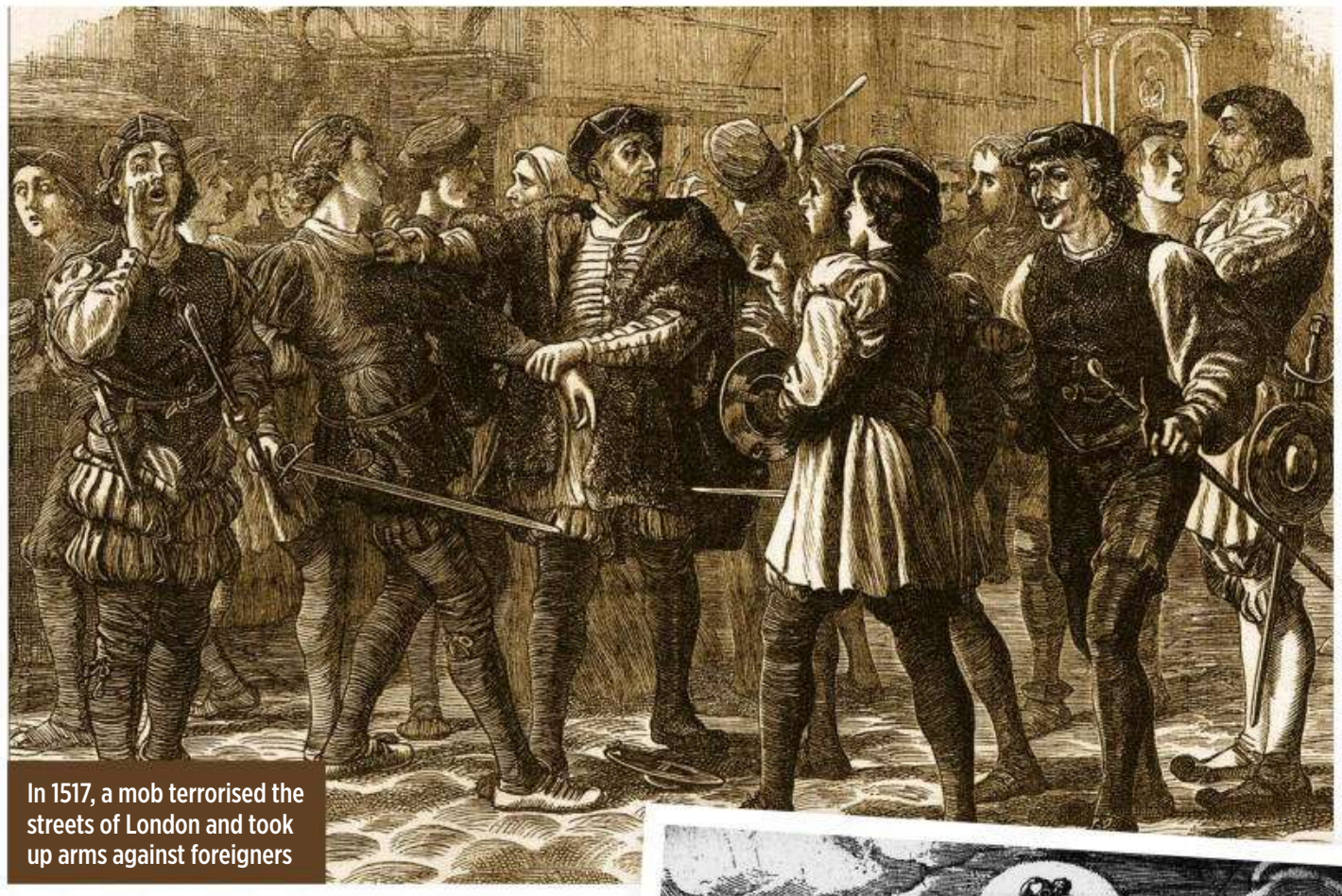
OUT NOW

'A fascinating journey into the tangled web
of the Tudor and Stuart courts'
Leanda de Lisle

SCOTLAND STREET PRESS

The Evil May Day Riots

Words: Emma Slattery Williams



In 1517, a mob terrorised the streets of London and took up arms against foreigners

ALAMY X2

WHAT WERE THE EVIL MAY DAY RIOTS?

The Evil May Day Riots (also known as the Ill May Day Riots) were violent disturbances that took place in London during the evening of 30 April 1517 and early hours of 1 May against foreigners living in the city. It is considered to be one of the earliest race riots in the world and early modern London's largest outbreak of violence against immigrants.

WHAT WERE RELATIONS LIKE BETWEEN IMMIGRANTS AND THE ENGLISH RESIDENTS OF LONDON BEFOREHAND?

As a thriving port and international city, London was home to people from many nations, including Italy, the Netherlands and France. The capital's thriving economy attracted merchants and artisans from all over Europe. It's thought that around two per cent of early 16th century London's population came from overseas.

While relations were cordial on the whole, some Londoners complained of being cheated by 'foreigners', people they claimed received protection from their nations' ambassadors, instead of facing the punishments that English citizens would receive. London was also suffering from an economic downturn. The previous winter had been tough, with prices rising and wages decreasing after a difficult harvest, and some blamed foreigners for their troubles.

WHAT CAUSED THE RIOTS?

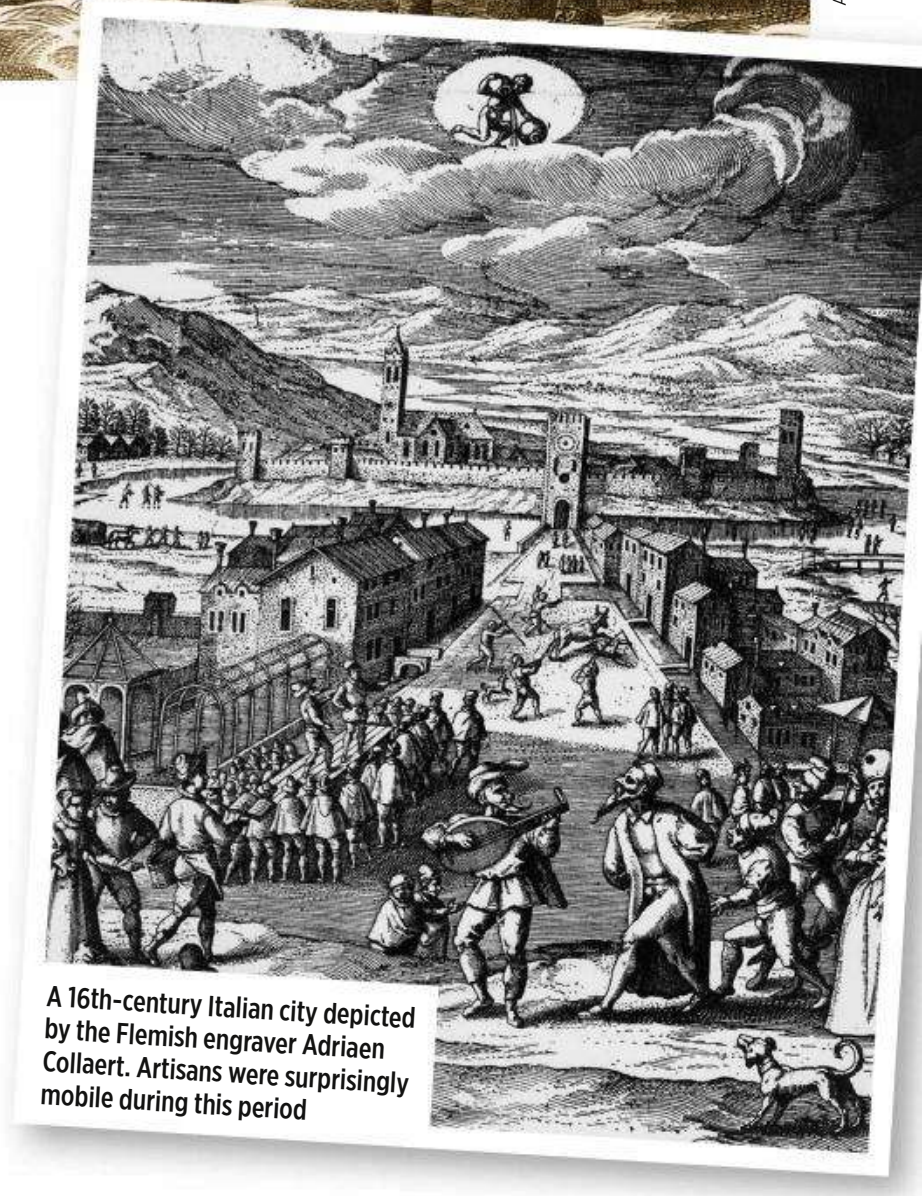
According to Edward Hall, a lawyer and historian who chronicled English life during these years, a preacher called Dr Bell (or Beal) gave a xenophobic speech in mid April 1517. Bell, who had been persuaded to give his speech by a broker, John Lincoln, accused immigrants of taking jobs from English workers.

"The aliens and strangers eat the bread from the poor fatherless children, and take the living from all the artificers, and the intercourse from all merchants, whereby poverty is so much increased that every man bewaileth the misery," said Bell. He declared the land they were on was given by God to Englishmen and therefore they "ought to cherish and defend themselves, and to hurt and grieve aliens for the common weal".

> "Londoners threatened to cut strangers to pieces and sack their houses on the first of May"

Over the following days, arrests were made after several random attacks against immigrants. Rumours began to spread that May Day would see a citywide 'rebellion' against foreigners.

The Venetian ambassador, Sebastian Giustinian, described the events that led to the riots a few days after they happened: "After Easter, a certain preacher, at the instigation of a citizen of London, preached as usual in the fields, where the whole city was in the habit of assembling with the magistrates. He abused the strangers in the town, and



A 16th-century Italian city depicted by the Flemish engraver Adriaen Collaert. Artisans were surprisingly mobile during this period

their manner and customs, alleging that they not only deprived the English of their industry, and of the profits arising therefrom, but dishonoured their dwellings by taking their wives and daughters. With this exasperating language and much more besides, he so irritated the populace, that they threatened to cut the strangers to pieces and sack their houses on the first of May."

Concerned about these rumours, the ambassador had visited Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, the lord chancellor, as well as King Henry VIII, who assured Giustinian that no harm would come to any foreigner in London.

HOW DID THE RIOTS UNFOLD?

On the evening of 30 April, the mayor of London announced a 9pm curfew. This was done at the behest of Wolsey, who was wary of trouble in the city.

That same evening, two young men were spotted by John Mundy, an alderman (a government official). He tried to enforce the curfew, but soon Mundy was surrounded by many men intent on causing him harm and he swiftly fled.

Eventually, about a thousand male apprentices gathered in Cheapside in the heart of the city, no doubt helped along by alcohol after the holiday celebrations. Storming Newgate, the city's largest prison, they freed all the incarcerated prisoners. They then proceeded to St Martin Le Grand, an area north of Old St Paul's Cathedral and home to many immigrants.

Thomas More, under-sheriff of London and advisor to the king, met the rowdy mob and tried to persuade them to disperse and return home. However, the terrified inhabitants of St Martin Le Grand, afraid of what might happen, began to throw stones and boiling water on the crowd. Panic ensued. The mob began looting and attacking homes and businesses. City officials tried to calm the crowds, but they were overwhelmed.

A late 16th-century map of London shows it as a thriving port and trading hub

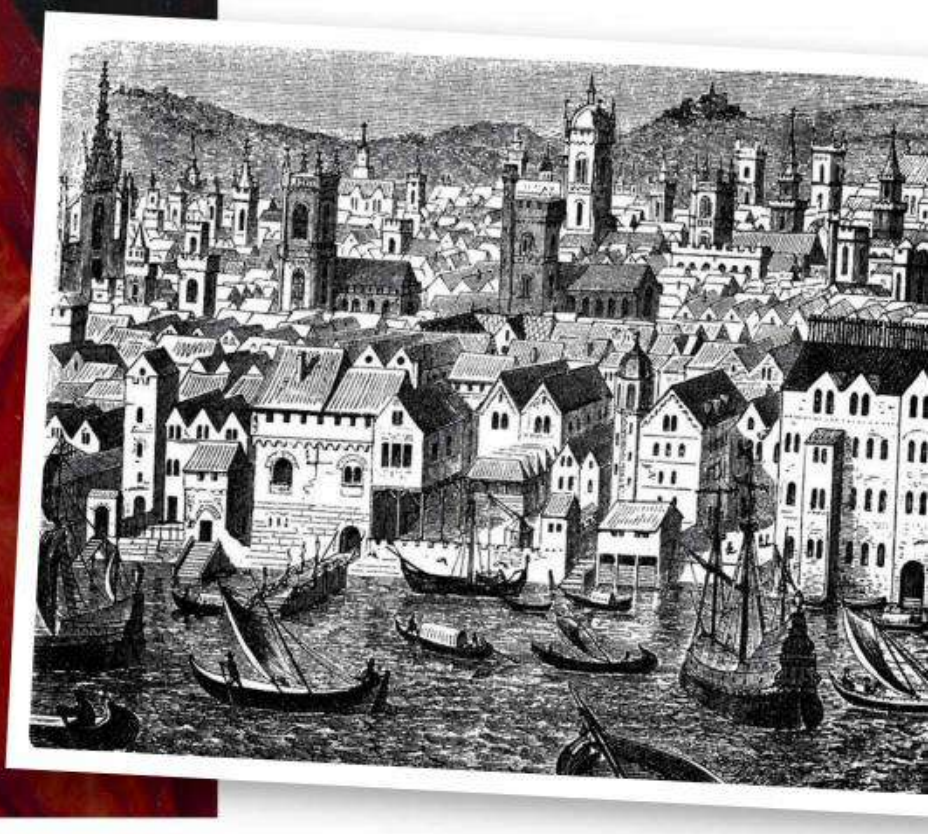
For five hours, between 1,000 and 2,000 people – mostly men – terrorised London. Possessions were thrown into the street, livelihoods were destroyed, and many people were injured.

Those who were targeted included merchants from the Hanseatic League (a confederation of merchant guilds from northern Europe), bankers who worked around Lombard Street, and foreign courtiers, although it's not thought anyone was killed.

May Day was possibly chosen as the day for the revolt as many people, including apprentices, had the day off work. The national holiday was celebrated by journeying into the fields to collect branches and flowers to decorate the home and commemorate the arrival of spring, so it was perhaps thought that these festivities would conceal the planned violence.

LEFT: **Henry VIII with Cardinal Wolsey. Both men reassured the Venetian ambassador that there would be no violence against foreigners**

BELOW: **A picture of the Steelyard – the Hanseatic League's base in London. When the riots erupted, its merchants were attacked**



GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X2

LEFT: **An illustration shows men and women celebrating May Day. It has been suggested that the rioters thought the festivities might distract the authorities from the violence they had planned**

BELOW: **The king's advisor, Thomas More, unsuccessfully tried to reason with the rowdy mob and get them to return home**

> "Greater mischief and bloodshed would have taken place, had not the Cardinal, being forewarned, taken precautionary measures"

WHAT WAS THE RESPONSE TO THE RIOTS?

During the early hours of 1 May, the earls of Shrewsbury and Surrey led the king's forces into the city in a bid to control the violence, and soon, around 5,000 troops had descended on the capital. By around 3am, peace had been restored to the streets and over 300 people were arrested for their part in the disturbances – some as young as 13. Giustinian suggested that many would have been killed had the troops not arrived in time: "Greater mischief and bloodshed would have taken place, had not the Cardinal, being forewarned, taken precautionary measures. He and other lords on that night came with considerable forces to the city by several roads."

Meanwhile, Edward Hall blamed immigrants for the riots. He claimed they had been goading and mocking Englishmen, and boasting of their closeness and favour with the king: "The multitude of strangers was so great about London that the poor English could get any living… The foreigners… were so proud that they disdained, mocked, and oppressed the Englishmen, which was the beginning of the grudge… The Genoans, Frenchmen, and other strangers said and boasted themselves to be in such favour with the king and his council that they set naught by the rulers of the city… How miserably the common artificers lived, and scarcely could get any work to find them, their wives, and children, for there were such a number of artificers strangers that took away all the living in manner."

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE RIOTERS WHO WERE ARRESTED?

John Lincoln, who instigated the riots, was arrested for treason and disturbing the peace. He was hanged, drawn and quartered for his actions, and his head was put on display as a warning. As he was being carried through the streets to meet his end, he still proclaimed his view that foreigners posed a threat to England: "My lords, I meant well, for and you knew, the mischief that is ensued in this realm by strangers."

Thirteen other rioters were executed, and countless others were supposed to suffer the same fate. However, upon being brought to Westminster to face the king, Queen Catherine publicly pleaded for their lives and Henry duly pardoned them, sparking much celebration among the gathered crowds.

HOW HAVE THE EVIL MAY DAY RIOTS BEEN REMEMBERED?

While few today have even heard of the Evil May Day Riots, this wasn't the case in the century that followed. In the 1590s, the riots played a prominent role in *Sir Thomas More* by Anthony Munday and Henry Chettle, a biographical play thought to have been revised by William Shakespeare, among others. The late 16th century saw a new wave of immigrants to England – many of them Protestants fleeing religious persecution in France and the Netherlands – and there were concerns that another anti-immigration riot was looming. It is no coincidence, then, that the play sees More make an impassioned plea for a sympathetic refugee policy while trying to quash the unrest – something he calls "the strangers' case" against "mountainish inhumanity".

LISTEN

BBC SOUNDS

Dr Laurie Taylor and Professor Panikos Panayi discuss how London has been shaped by the history of immigration on an episode of *Thinking Allowed*: *bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000wc5l*

Al Capone's rise to infamy

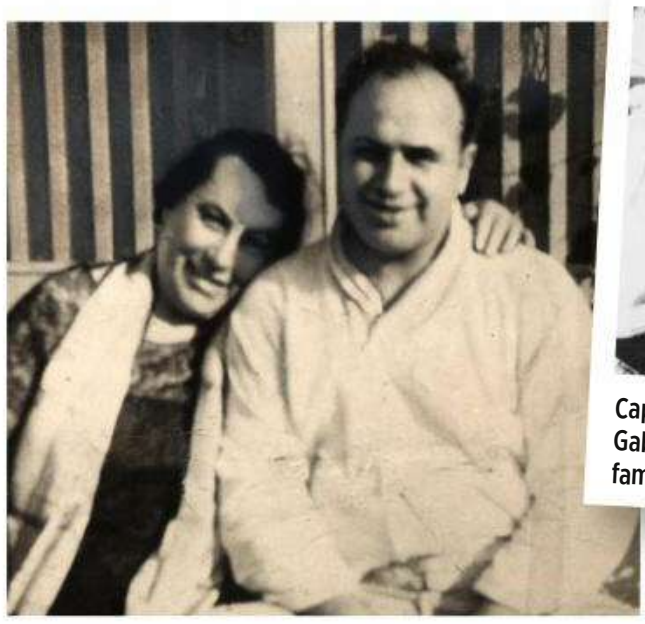
He is one of the most well-known gangsters of all time, immortalised in numerous films and books. But does Al Capone deserve his ruthless reputation? And why did his criminal career end with a whimper?

If you ask most people to name a notorious gangster from history, the chances are that they will say the New York born crime lord Alphonse 'Al' Capone. However, despite his reputation for murder and vice, Capone's life could have taken an altogether different path.

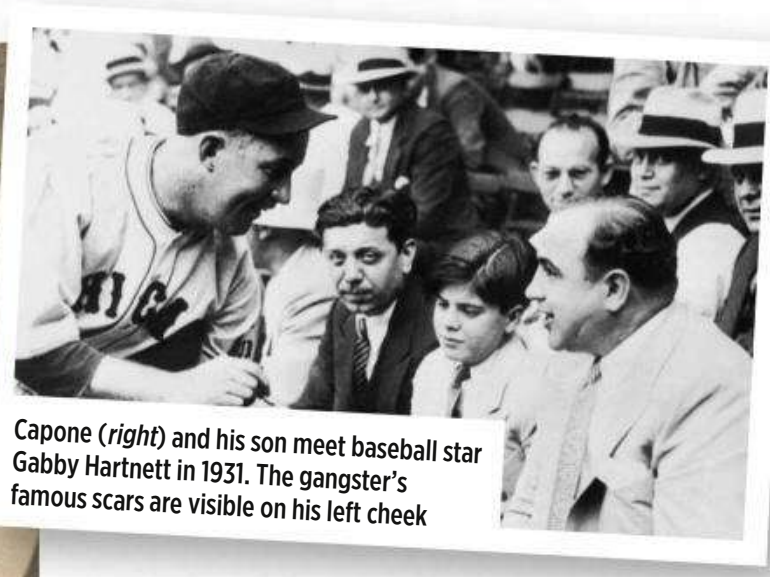
Born in 1899 to Italian immigrants Gabriele and Teresina, the young Capone was known to be a diligent student and thrived at elementary school in his native Brooklyn. However, as he entered his teenage years, things took a sour turn. After being kicked out of education for assaulting a teacher, the 14 year old became embroiled with a gang known as the James Street Boys, led by the formidable Johnny Torrio. Not content with being a member of one criminal organisation, Capone joined Manhattan's Five Points gang aged 16 and took up work as a bouncer and bartender at the Harvard Inn, a bar and brothel owned by mobster Frankie Yale.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the teenager's time at the Harvard Inn was marked by violence, and saw him gain the injury that would earn him the moniker 'Scarface'. In 1917, a man named Frank Galluccio slashed Capone's left cheek with a penknife after he directed an insult at Galluccio's sister, Lena. The attack not only left Capone needing 30 stitches, but intense feelings of self consciousness. When asked about his wounds, Capone would tell people that he had sustained them while fighting in France during World War I a conflict in which he never served.

A year after his run in with Galluccio, Capone married Mae Coughlin, who had recently given birth to their son, Albert Francis, and the family moved to Baltimore, Maryland, where Capone began working as a bookkeeper. But an offer from his childhood mentor Johnny Torrio to join Chicago's Colosimo mob a Prohibition era gang that made its money through the illegal brewing, distilling and distribution of beer and liquor proved impossible to resist, and the family relocated to Illinois.



Al Capone with his Italian-born mother, Teresina. She had emigrated to the US with Capone's father, Gabriele, in 1893



Capone (*right*) and his son meet baseball star Gabby Hartnett in 1931. The gangster's famous scars are visible on his left cheek

When Torrio fled the US in 1925 following an attempt on his life, Capone took on leadership of the gang and quickly set to work expanding its fearsome reputation newspapers at the time estimated that the operation generated $100m in revenue annually, primarily from bootlegging, gambling, prostitution and racketeering.

One of the worst crimes alleged to have been committed by the gang, however, occurred on 14 February 1929, when seven members of the rival George 'Bugs' Moran mob were lined up against a wall in Chicago's Lincoln Park neighbourhood and machine gunned to death. While the so called Saint Valentine's Day massacre was ascribed to the group, Capone was in Florida at the time and the case remained 'unsolved'.

DEATH, TAXES AND SYPHILIS

In fact, Capone was never convicted of murder, but he was found guilty of numerous other crimes. In May 1929, he was handed a nine month prison sentence for carrying concealed weapons in Philadelphia, and in February 1931, he was found guilty of a contempt of court charge and sentenced to six months in Cook County Jail in Chicago.

But the final nail in Capone's coffin came on 18 October 1931, when he was handed 11 years in federal prison for tax evasion, serving part of his sentence in Atlanta before being transferred to Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay.

Capone's health deteriorated significantly in jail in 1938 he was diagnosed with neurosyphilis, an infection of the central nervous system caused by the sexually transmitted infection syphilis. Confined to Alcatraz's hospital wing, the ailment eroded his mental faculties to the extent that he became certifiably insane. After appeals from his wife, the gangster was granted parole in 1939, and later became one of the first Americans to receive penicillin as treatment for his condition.

But the damage to his brain was irreversible. On 21 January 1947, Capone suffered a stroke and contracted pneumonia, dying four days later from a cardiac arrest. By the time of his death, the gangster apparently had the intellectual abilities of a 12 year old. For a man who had wielded so much power within America's criminal underworld, he certainly did not go out in the blaze of glory he had possibly once anticipated.

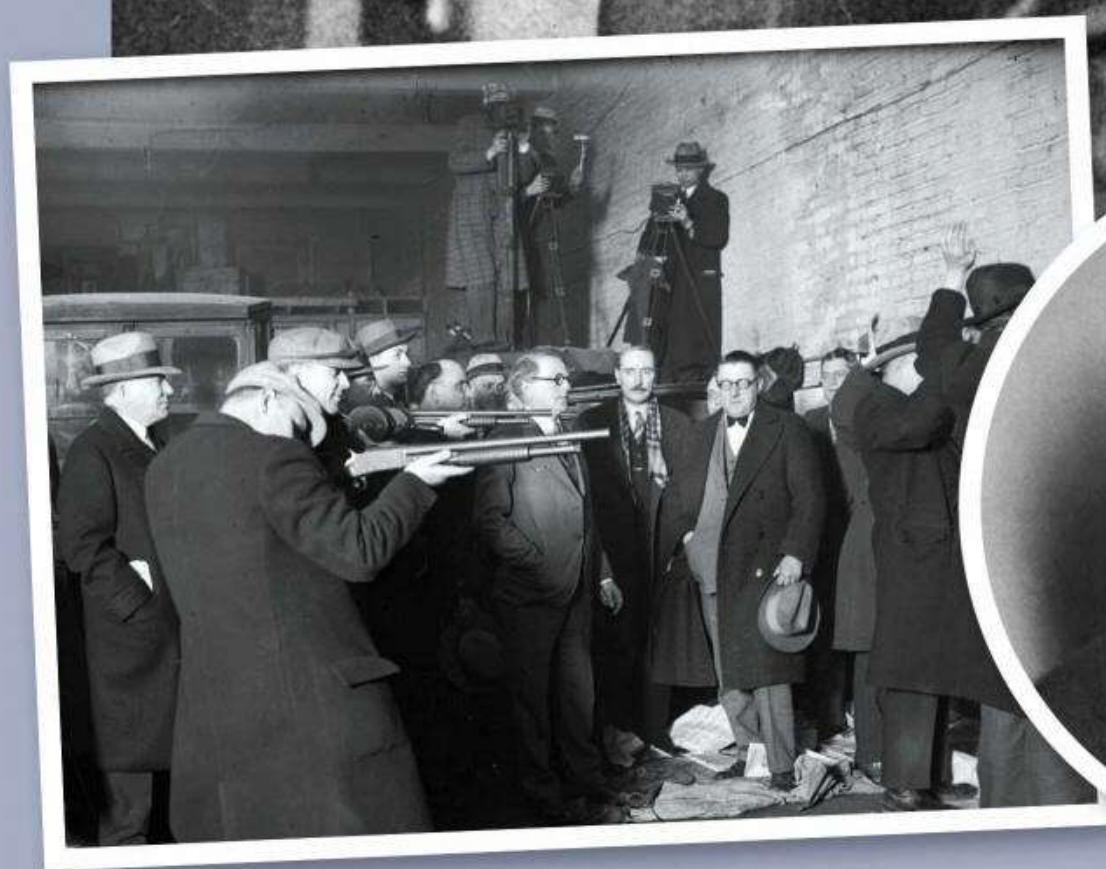
WATCH

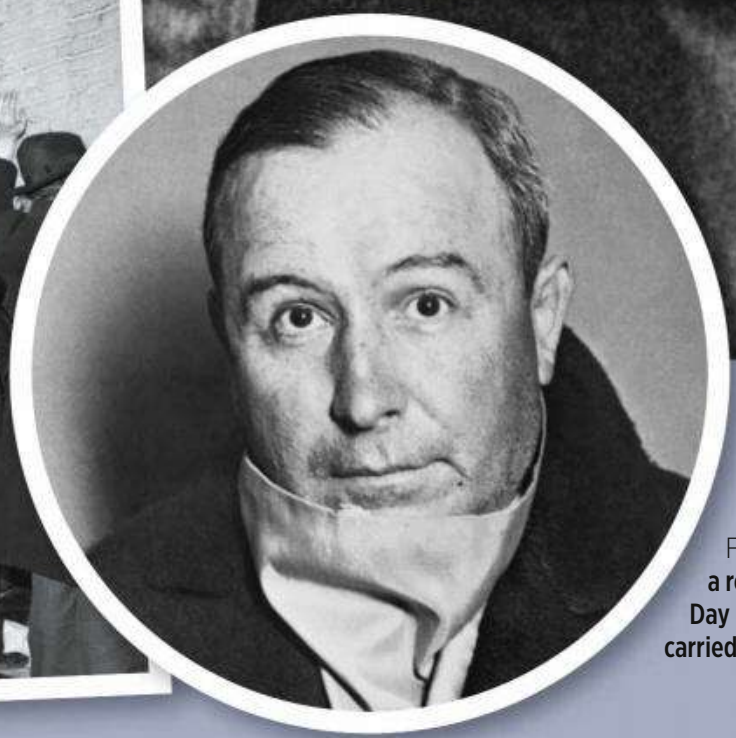
BBC ONE The antics of interwar gangsters on both sides of the Atlantic feature in the sixth and final series of *Peaky Blinders*, available to stream in full on BBC iPlayer: *bbc.co.uk/programmes/b045fz8r*

GETTY IMAGES X4, ALAMY X1

A smiling Capone leaves court in Atlanta after attending a hearing to request his release from prison, 1932. His handcuffs are deftly hidden beneath his hat

"It was estimated that Capone's operation generated $100m in revenue annually, primarily from bootlegging, gambling, prostitution and racketeering"





LEFT: **The feared Johnny Torrio acted as Capone's childhood mentor in New York City, and later brought him to Chicago**

FAR LEFT: **Investigators carry out a reconstruction of the Saint Valentine's Day Massacre – a brutal gang slaying carried out on Capone's orders in 1929**

BBC HISTORY REVEALED

HRP107

YOU MAY PHOTOCOPY THIS FORM

SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM

Please complete the order form and send to:
FREEPOST IMMEDIATE MEDIA *(please write in capitals)*

UK DIRECT DEBIT

☐ I would like to subscribe by Direct Debit and pay £39.99 for 13 issues.

SAVE 44% + RECEIVE THE ROYAL HISTORY BUNDLE* (Please complete order form below)

YOUR DETAILS (ESSENTIAL)

Title Forename Surname

Address

Postcode

Home tel no Mobile tel no

Email

☐ **I wish to purchase a gift subscription** (please supply gift recipient's name and address on a separate sheet)

Instructions to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

DIRECT Debit

To: the Manager (Bank/Building Society)

Address

Postcode

Name(s) of account holder(s)

Bank/Building Society account number **Branch sort code**

Reference number (internal use only)

Originator's identification number

7 1 0 6 4 4

Please pay Immediate Media Co Bristol Ltd Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Immediate Media Co Bristol Ltd and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature Date / /

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit mandates from some types of account

KEEP IN TOUCH

BBC History Revealed (published by Immediate Media Company Limited) would like to send you updates, special offers and promotions by email. You can unsubscribe at any time.
Please tick here if you would like to receive these ☐

We would also like to keep in touch by post and telephone about other relevant offers and promotions from Immediate Media. If you do not wish to be contacted this way please tick here: post ☐ phone ☐. For more information about how to change the way we contact you, and how we hold your personal information, please see our privacy policy which can be viewed online at immediate.co.uk/privacy-policy

OTHER PAYMENT OPTIONS

☐ **UK by credit/debit card or cheque for** just £49.99 for 13 issues **SAVING 30% + RECEIVE THE ROYAL HISTORY BUNDLE***

☐ **Europe inc Eire** €68.00 for 13 issues ☐ **Rest of World** $70.00 for 13 issues ☐ **USA** $65.00 for 13 issues

CREDIT CARD DETAILS

Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐

☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

Issue no ☐☐ Valid from ☐☐☐☐ Expiry date ☐☐☐☐

Signature Date

☐ I enclose a cheque made payable to Immediate Media Co for £ _____

OVERSEAS Please complete the order form and send to:
BBC History Revealed magazine, PO Box 3320, 3 Queensbridge, NORTHAMPTON, NN4 7BF

* The royal history bundle is only available to UK residents. Crown & Sceptre by Tracy Borman and The Queen Special Edition is subject to availability; we reserve the right to fulfil all subsequent orders with a product of equal value. Please allow up to 6 weeks for delivery, but we will endeavour to fulfil orders at the earliest opportunity. Direct Debit offer is available for UK customers only. Full details of the Direct Debit Guarantee are available on request. Your subscription will start with the next available issue.
HURRY! Offer ends 11 June 2022

BBC
FAKING A CITY IN WWI
THE FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO RAMBLE
HISTORY REVEALED
YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO
THE HISTORY OF WITCHCRAFT
Persecution and prosecution across the centuries – from Salem to Scotland
PLUS Sarah Biffin: From sideshow act to celebrity artist Q&A:

HURRY! Offer ends 11 June 2022

YOUR SPECIAL ROYAL HISTORY OFFER:

- **Tudor Royal Women Masterclass** with Tracy Borman
- ***Crown and Sceptre*** by Tracy Borman
- ***BBC History Magazine*** **special edition on the Queen**
- **Save 44% off the shop price** – pay just £39.99 for 13 issues when you subscribe by Direct Debit
- **Free UK delivery** direct to your door, at no extra charge!
- **Never miss an issue of our action-packed magazine**, suitable for all members of the family

SPECIAL ROYAL BUNDLE OFFER

GET YOUR ROYAL HISTORY BUNDLE WORTH £95*

WHEN YOU SUBSCRIBE TO BBC HISTORY REVEALED

SPECIAL ROYAL BUNDLE WORTH £95

HISTORY EXTRA
Tudor Royal Women
with Tracy Borman
HISTORY EXTRA MASTERCLASS
Tudor Royal Women with Tracy Borman
TRACY BORMAN
CROWN & SCEPTRE
A NEW HISTORY OF THE BRITISH MONARCHY FROM WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR TO ELIZABETH II
BBC HISTORY MAGAZINE
THE QUEEN
A guide to her life and times from the makers of BBC History Magazine
From princess to queen
The glamour of the coronation
Love behind the throne
Champion of the Commonwealth
Inside the royal wardrobe
Her inspiring predecessors

Masterclass: Tudor Royal Women with Tracy Borman

This five-part online lecture series focuses on some of the most celebrated women of the Tudor period, from the six wives of Henry VIII to the Virgin Queen, Elizabeth I, and her 'bloody' sister, Mary

Crown & Sceptre:
A New History of the British Monarchy from William the Conqueror to Elizabeth II
by Tracy Borman

"Enlightening, gripping and skilfully composed, Tracy Borman navigates the twists and turns of the British monarchy with an expert hand." *Nicola Tallis*

The Queen:
A guide to her life and times from the makers of *BBC History Magazine*

This special edition explores the Queen's remarkable reign, delving into the key moments of her rule as well as her life away from the throne

Subscribe online or call us

www.buysubscriptions.com/HRP107

03330 162 116† Quote code HRP107

Scan the QR code with your phone

SCAN ME

†UK calls will cost the same as other standard fixed line numbers (starting 01 or 02) and are included as part of any inclusive or free minutes allowances (if offered by your phone tariff). Outside of free call packages, call charges from mobile phones will cost between 3p and 55p per minute. Lines are open Mon–Fri, 9am–5pm. Overseas readers call +44 1604 973 723.

PODCAST

Professor Benjamin Carp discusses the American Revolutionary War on the HistoryExtra podcast: *historyextra.com/everything-american-revolution*

GETTY IMAGES X8, ALAMY X1

YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR

In 1775, a bitter war erupted over whether the people of Britain's American colonies should govern themselves or be ruled by a monarch thousands of miles across the Atlantic Ocean. While there were those who remained loyal to King George III and the Crown, there were also colonists – frustrated by high taxes and a lack of parliamentary representation – who sought to break those bonds and form a new nation.

After years of battles and bloodshed, that dream of independence was finally achieved, and the United States would emerge as a new global superpower. The upheaval would also lionise figures such as George Washington and Benjamin Franklin, and help inspire revolution on the European continent and beyond.

In this issue of *BBC History Revealed*, we'll be telling the story of the Revolutionary War in vivid detail, exploring the simmering tensions that first led patriots to take up arms, and why the British ultimately came unstuck. Guided on our journey by historian Professor Benjamin Carp, we'll meet the royals, radicals and revolutionaries who shaped the course of the conflict, examine the role played by women, and also look at the story behind the Declaration of Independence.

To help you get your bearings, however, we begin with a timeline of key events. Simply turn the page to get started...

30 American Revolutionary War timeline
We chart the conflict's most significant milestones

32 Everything you wanted to know about the American Revolutionary War
Professor Benjamin Carp answers the biggest questions about the conflict

36 How the war began
Discover what drove frustrated colonists to take up arms and rebel

40 The Declaration of Independence
We reveal five things you may not know about this sacred American document

42 Key people of the war
Meet the cast of characters whose names loom large over this period in history

48 Revolutionary women
Learn how women supported the war effort, both at home and on the battlefield

50 The battles that created a nation
Inside the deadly clashes that pitted patriots against those loyal to the Crown

54 The conflict in facts and figures
We examine the war's staggering casualty statistics, and more

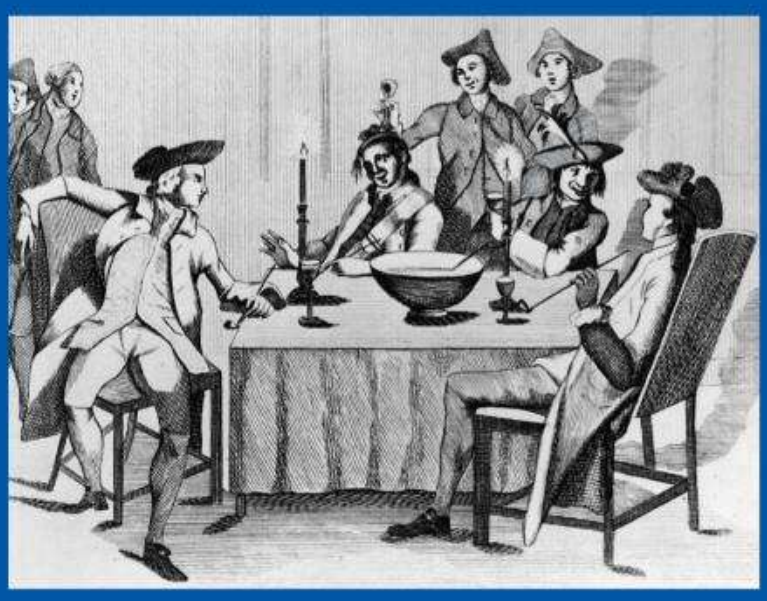
56 From revolution to resolution
How was peace negotiated once the British had laid down their arms?

58 Get hooked
Take the topic further with our pick of TV, radio and podcasts

BENJAMIN CARP is associate professor and Daniel M Lyons chair of history at Brooklyn College. His new book, *The Great New York Fire of 1776: A Lost Story of the American Revolution*, will be published later this year by Yale University Press

TEA, TAXES AND THE TAKING UP OF ARMS

10 FEB 1763



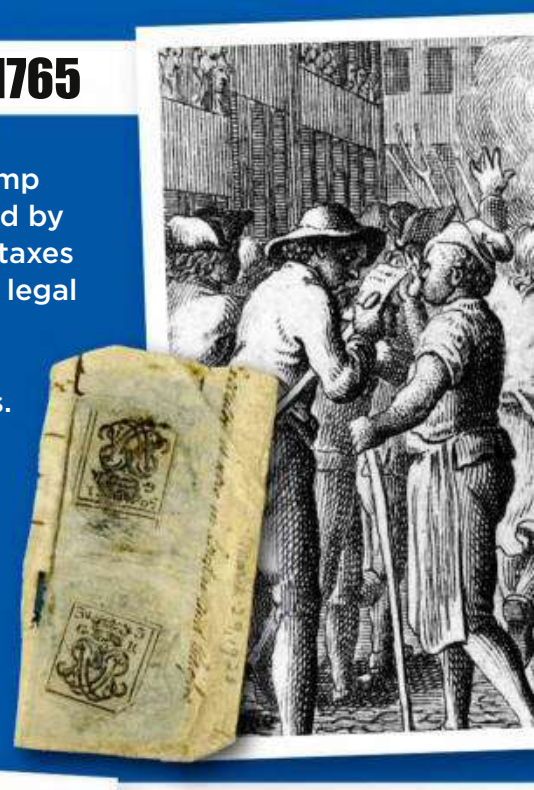
◀ The Seven Years' War, fought between several nations including Britain and France, ends with the signing of the Treaty of Paris. France surrenders its territory in North America and the Caribbean to Britain.

5 APR 1764

One of Britain's first attempts to defend its colonies is the Sugar Act. This imposes a series of laws on the cost of goods such as sugar and coffee, imported into the colonies. Intended to discourage smuggling, it leads to widespread protests.

22 MAR 1765

▶ The Stamp Act is passed by Britain. This taxes newspapers, legal documents and even playing cards. Resistance by American colonists sees the act repealed the following year.

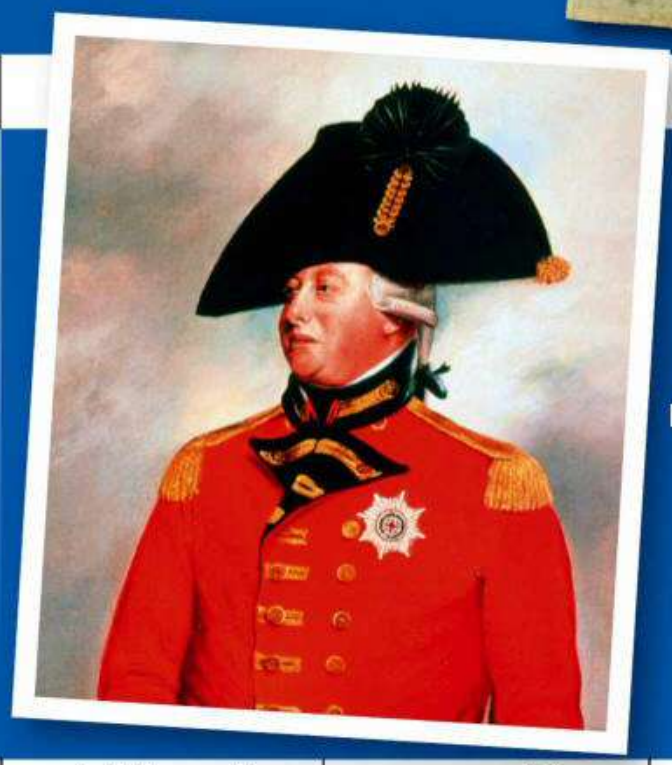


4 JUL 1776

▼ The Second Continental Congress adopts the Declaration of Independence, proclaiming the American colonies to be independent from Britain. The name 'United States' is first used this year.

14 NOV 1775

The governor of Virginia, Lord Dunmore, promises freedom to people enslaved by rebels who fight for the British. Thousands of African-Americans take up the offer, while a small number fight on the side of the colonists.

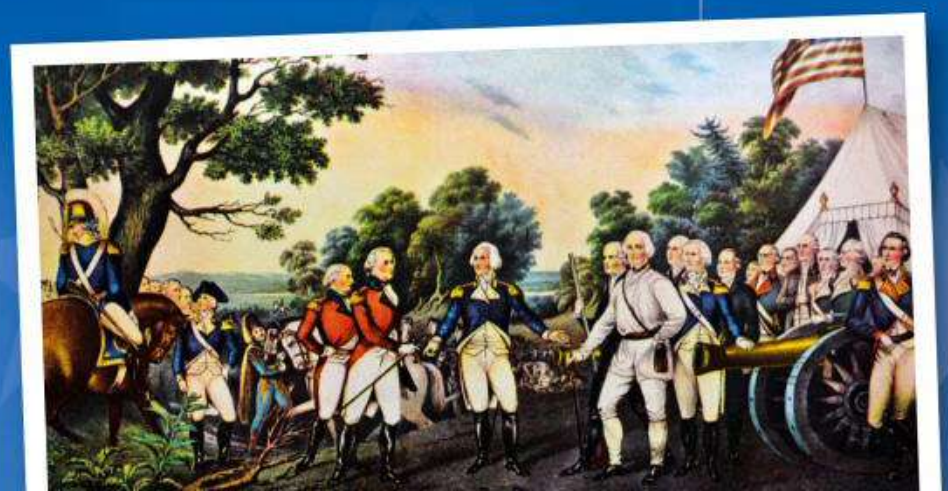


23 AUG 1775

◀ King George III declares that the colonies are in open rebellion, with some of the British leadership believing the 'Olive Branch Petition' – a final attempt by the Americans to avoid war – to be insincere.

17 OCT 1777

▼ More than 5,000 British, German and loyalist troops surrender at Saratoga, New York. This victory for the colonists marks the end of British attempts to control the corridor linking Quebec to New York.



6 FEB 1778

France recognises American independence, thereby declaring war against Britain.

19 OCT 1781

▼ General George Washington wins a decisive American victory at Yorktown and Britain's General Lord Cornwallis surrenders. The British decide to stop carrying out offensive operations.

JAN 1782

Americans who have remained loyal to the Crown begin departing for Britain, Canada and colonies in the West Indies. Civilians are evacuated in several waves as ships become available.

3 SEP 1783

▶ Almost two years after Cornwallis' surrender, the Treaty of Paris officially ends the war. Britain formally recognises the United States as an independent nation.

GETTY IMAGES X13, ALAMY X1

The seeds of revolution and calls for independence were brewing in Britain's American colonies many years before a shooting war broke out...

WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS

1 OCT 1768

Boston is occupied by British troops who are there to enforce the Townshend Duties. Passed in 1767, these impose taxes on imported paint, glass, paper and tea. Colonial assemblies begin to protest against taxation without representation – taxes they see as unconstitutional because colonists are not represented in Britain's parliament.

5 MAR 1770

Clashes between British soldiers and Bostonians finally culminate with British troops opening fire on a group of citizens armed with weapons such as clubs and bricks. Five people are killed in what becomes known as the Boston Massacre.

16 DEC 1773

▶ Colonial merchants dump almost £10,000 worth of tea in Boston Harbor – an incident dubbed the Boston Tea Party. It is a protest against the 1773 Tea Act, which has allowed the East India Company to sell directly to colonies, strengthening its monopoly.

17 JUN 1775

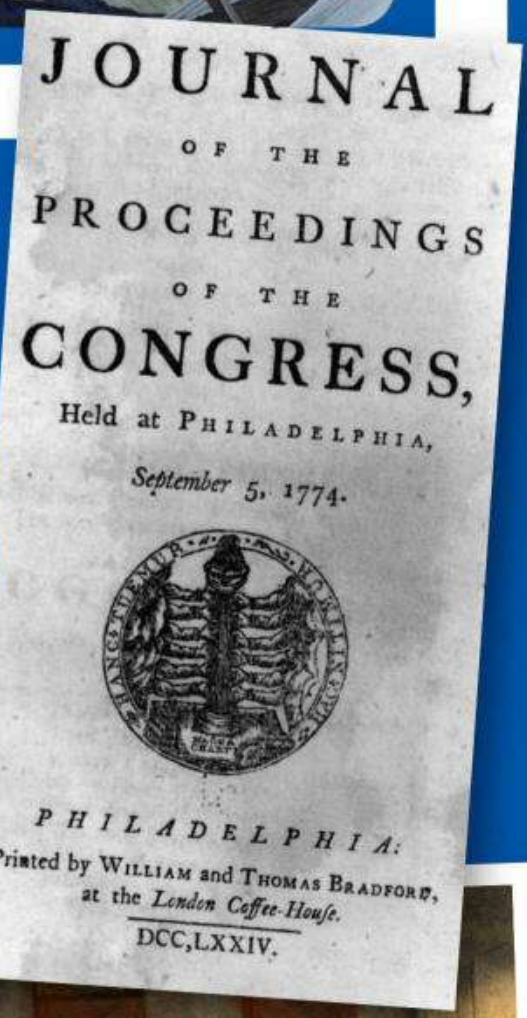
▲ The first major clash of the war at Bunker Hill sees a British victory, although they lose around half of their troops.

19 APR 1775

▼ The first shots of the American Revolutionary War are fired in Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, as the British Army marches to seize arms from the colonists.

MAR – OCT 1774

▶ Britain passes a set of laws known as the Coercive Acts. Boston Harbor is closed to all but British ships, governors are given the right to requisition unoccupied buildings for troops, and self-government is halted. The first meeting of the Continental Congress – a delegation made up of representatives from the American colonies – ends with a decision to boycott British trade.

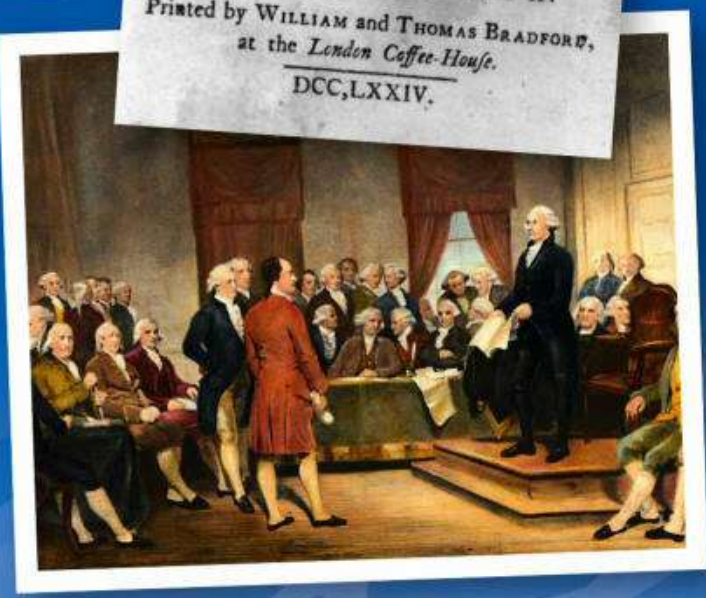


22 OCT 1784

The Treaty of Fort Stanwix brings peace between the United States and the six Native American nations of the Iroquois Confederacy. The six nations refuse to ratify the treaty, leading to conflict over the land cessions for years to come.

17 SEP 1787

▶ The Constitutional Convention, which has been taking place in Philadelphia since May, adopts the Constitution of the United States. It will take months for the states to debate and ratify the document, which will be amended many times over the coming years. ⊙



A painting depicts troops at the battle of Lexington on 19 April 1775: the day the Revolutionary War officially started. However, resentment between the colonists and their British rulers had already been simmering away for a decade

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR

Professor Benjamin Carp answers key questions about the colonies' 18th-century fight for independence

Q: What was the American Revolutionary War?

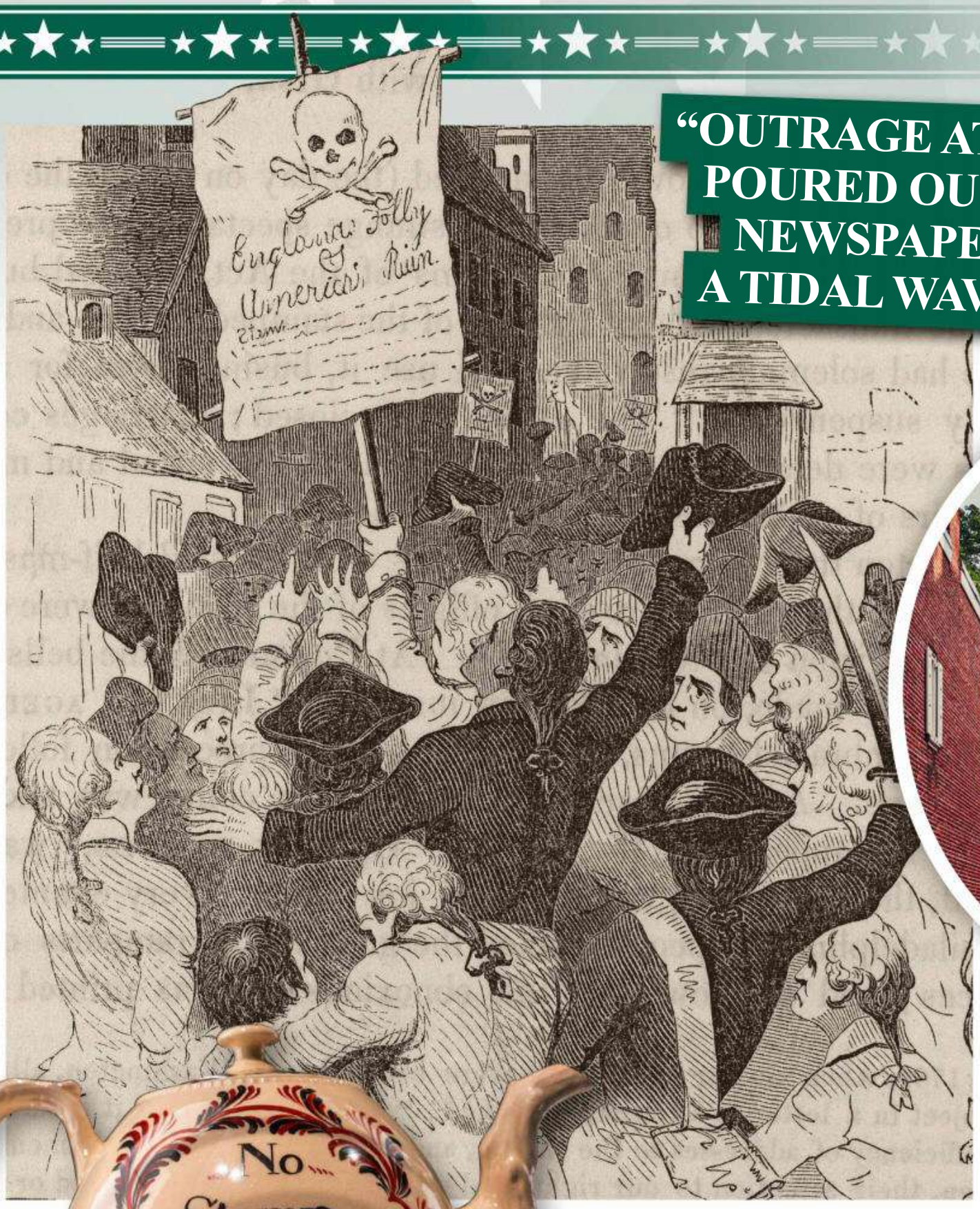
A: The American Revolutionary War, in a nutshell, started out as a political protest against the impositions of the British empire, such as taxation, and eventually turned violent when the American colonists took up arms. The first military clash took place on 19 April 1775 and the conflict officially ended with the Treaty of Paris in September 1783.

Q: Could war have been avoided if Britain had given its American colonies representation in parliament?

A: Representation for the colonies was not very realistic and not really what the Americans wanted, either. Any group of American representatives in parliament could have been easily outvoted, or their representatives could have been corrupted. Plus, it took three to four months for messages to get back and forth. What the Americans really wanted was to use their own colonial assemblies and make voluntary grants back to the British parliament, which would have been another way for Britain to get revenue from its American colonies. It's something that the British could have addressed through negotiations over taxation and governance.

The Stamp Act of 1765 was one of the catalysts for war it required a certain kind of stamped paper to be used on

GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X1



"OUTRAGE AT THE STAMP ACT POURED OUT OF AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS, CREATING A TIDAL WAVE OF PROTEST"

ABOVE: **Carpenters' Hall, Philadelphia – where the Continental Congress held its first meeting in 1774**

LEFT: **The introduction of the Stamp Act in 1765 led to widespread protests in the colonies. Here, a demonstrator holds a banner bearing the words "England's folly and America's ruin"**

ABOVE: **A decorative teapot bearing an anti-Stamp Act slogan. Ironically, this item was actually made in England**

LEFT: **Even the sale of items such as newspapers and dice was taxed by the British government**

a variety of documents in America, mostly relating to trade and legal documents, as well as newspapers and even dice. But the types of people that the Stamp Act hit were exactly the types of people you wouldn't have wanted to annoy: lawyers, overseas merchants and tavern owners, for example people who were particularly effective at publicly airing their grievances.

Outrage at the Stamp Tax poured out of American newspapers, creating a kind of tidal wave of protest. Parliament did repeal the act a year later, but it also confirmed its right to make legislation on the colonies over anything it wanted to. The interesting thing is all these protests took place in 1765 66 but the war didn't actually start for another decade.

Q: How did the revolutionaries come to be united?

A: How the colonies began talking to each other is interesting. They had been coordinating their actions to some degree with the British during the Seven Years' War, which had been fought between Britain and France, along with several other nations, from 1756 63. So there was some history of interaction and cooperation, and the colonies obviously traded with one another. But there were also significant differences between the plantation colonies of the South and the more commercial fishing colonies of New England, for example.

What really began to unite the colonies, however, were things like the creation of organisations such as the Sons of Liberty in 1765. Men met in taverns and corresponded with one another about issues of mutual concern, and there were also attempts to coordinate boycotts.

Then, the Continental Congress which first met in late 1774 brought people from the various colonies together again. At first it coordinated acts of protest, but then it moved on to ▶

organising bigger things, like buying the gunpowder that would allow it to actually prosecute a war.

Q: To what degree were 'ordinary' Americans supportive of independence?

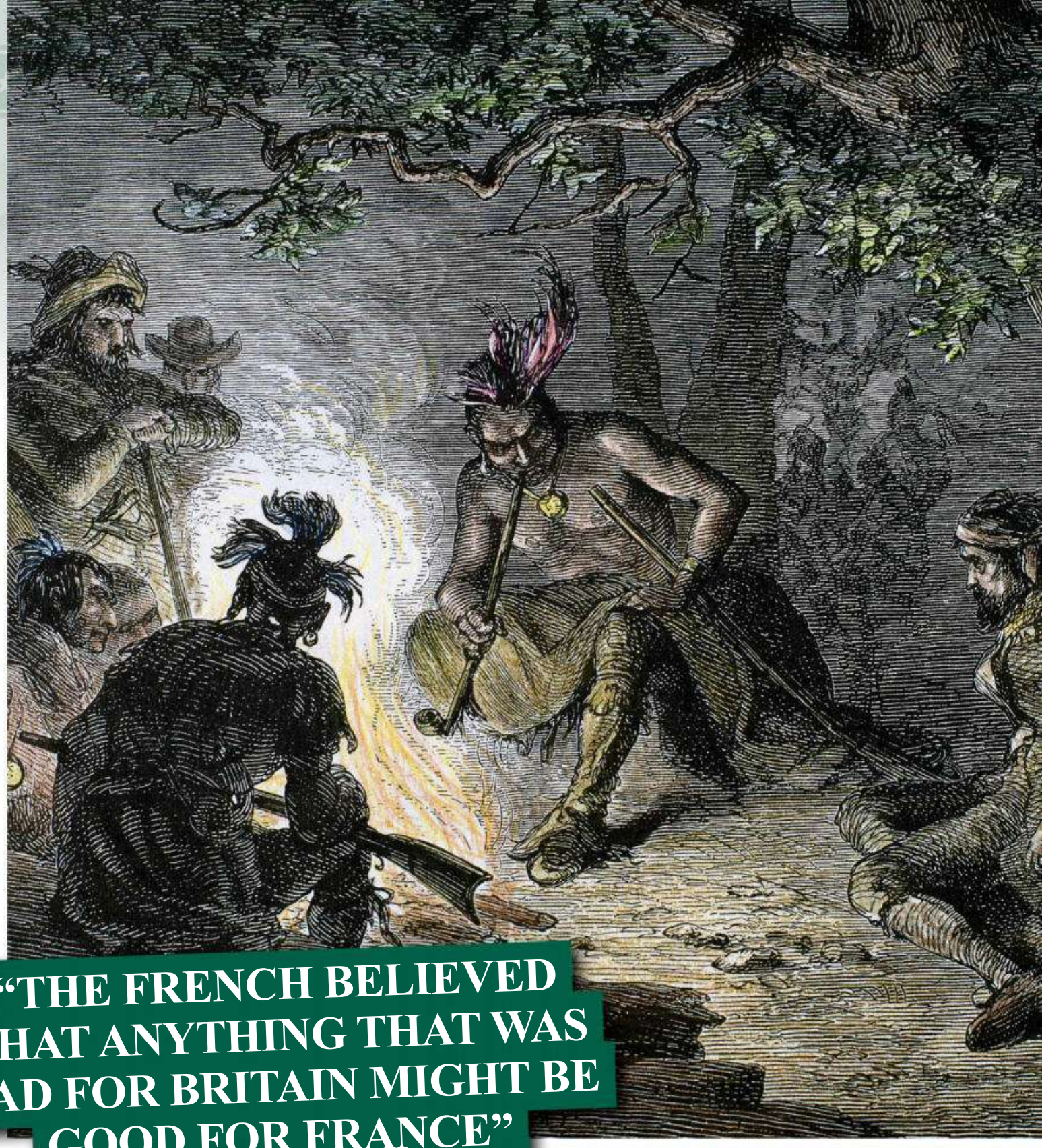
A: You can point to widespread support for independence all the way down to the poorest whites and even some people of colour. It was definitely not just the elites, although the elites had a certain amount of power to arrange things in various ways.

But equally, there was also a lot of dissent: people who didn't trust the leading patriots for political, economic or religious reasons, or who thought that violence would be ruinous. In fact, historians estimate that anywhere between 20 per cent to a third of the American colonists did not support the revolution, possibly even more.

So, what determined whether colonists supported the king or sought independence? Firstly, there might have been economic or geopolitical reasons: if people felt they benefited from being part of the British empire, then they might have wanted to stick around. There were also ideological reasons: if people believed in the superiority of English liberty, constitutional monarchy and the Church of England, that would also have been a reason to remain loyal. Similarly, there were pacifists, such as Quakers or Moravians, who really didn't think that starting a world war was a good idea.

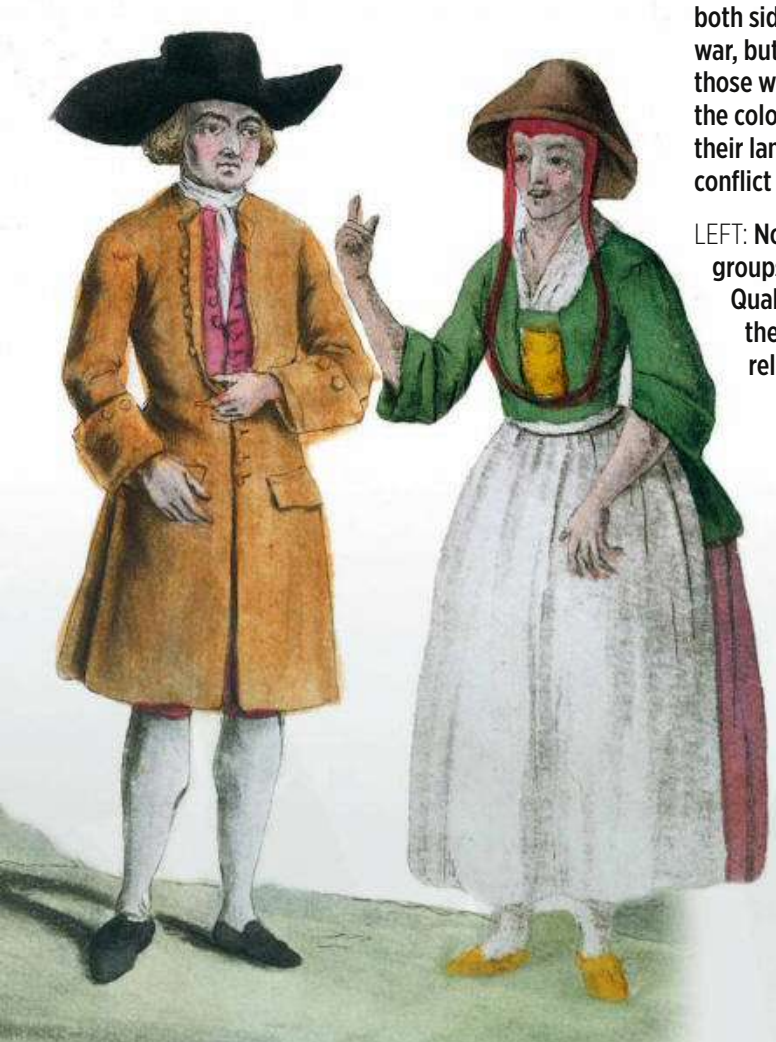
And finally, there were social reasons as well. If someone was black or Native American, or even a middle or working class white person, they might not have felt that the current arrangement was serving their interests.

Overall, it was extraordinarily complicated, and we cannot assume that every American was standing behind the elites, ready to join the revolution.



"THE FRENCH BELIEVED THAT ANYTHING THAT WAS BAD FOR BRITAIN MIGHT BE GOOD FOR FRANCE"

GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X1



ABOVE: **Indigenous people fought on both sides of the war, but many – even those who had backed the colonists – lost their land once the conflict was over**

LEFT: **Nonconformist groups, such as the Quakers, opposed the war on strict religious grounds**

Q: How did France get involved in the war?

A: At first, the French didn't want to do anything, and were wary of starting another European war. And they also didn't want to bet on a losing rebellion or set the precedent that it was acceptable to rise up and topple a government. But after the British were defeated at the battle of Saratoga in October 1777, the French started to see the rebellion as viable, and signed an official treaty of alliance with the American colonies.

France's reasons for doing so were pretty obvious: yes, there was some intellectual interest among Enlightenment figures who saw the revolution as a cause for liberty, but the real reason was that anything that was bad for Britain might be good for France. It was an opportunity to seize more power in Europe.

Q: What impact did the conflict have on indigenous American communities?

A: Prior to the Seven Years' War, there were indigenous groups like the Iroquois or Haudenosaunee who could play the British and French against each another to maintain their autonomy and have the greatest negotiating advantage for the trade goods that they wanted.

In 1763, after Britain had won the Seven Years' War and the French were out of the picture, there was a hope that the British – to avoid Native American warfare – might restrain the white American colonists from further encroachment on Native American lands. But once the British, too, had left at the end of the American Revolutionary War, Native Americans

had less ability to do that, and the white American settlers began taking more Native American land.

What's more, the Americans decided that any Native American group – such as the Cherokee or the Creek or the Iroquois or the Shawnee – who had sided with Britain in the war would be treated as conquered nations. Even some of the groups who had allied with the Americans, like the Oneida or the Stockbridge, didn't necessarily fare very well, and were often forced to cede certain land claims anyway. There were a variety of different indigenous experiences, though, so it's very difficult to generalise.

What is interesting is that even though white Americans used Native Americans as their symbol – in the Boston Tea Party and in cartoons, for example – actual Native Americans ended up having to fight a rear-guard action against this newly unrestrained white population. It was another ugly chapter in the long story of indigenous people being dispossessed of their land.

Q: What's known about the enslaved people who fought in the conflict on either side?

A: There were black people who were part of the army surrounding Boston from the very beginning of the conflict, and some indigenous people, too. But again, it was a complicated story. By the middle of the war, many New England states were offering enslaved black people their freedom in exchange for military service, and all the New England colonies eventually abolished slavery – either during the war or soon after the war.

The other part of the story – largely, but not exclusively – took place in the South. Again, from 1775, British military and civil officers were offering freedom to people who were enslaved to rebel masters, providing they fought on the side of the Crown, which obviously disrupted the plantation system quite a bit. This didn't necessarily make the British liberators – enslaved 'property' was generally respected and there were loyalists who ended up leaving the colonies at the end of the war, taking their enslaved people with them. So, the British weren't necessarily looking to dismantle slavery at this point, but they did have an interest, as a war measure, in disrupting the rebels' slave holdings.

Many black people took advantage of this. They participated in work stoppage and rose up in one way or another, and thousands of enslaved people fled from rebel masters. Some of them made it to British-occupied New York City, and their ability to claim their freedom was respected by the governor-general of British North America, Guy Carleton. This annoyed George Washington, as some of his own enslaved people escaped.

So the war was definitely a moment in which slavery was disrupted, but we have to remember that four million people were still enslaved on the eve of the Civil War in 1860, many decades later. The revolution did not end slavery right away, and that's something that we must consider as well.

INTERVIEW: ELINOR EVANS
WORDS: CHARLOTTE HODGMAN

ABOVE: **Despite symbolically dressing as Native Americans during the Boston Tea Party, white American settlers continued to encroach on Native American land**

TOP: **A monument to Haitian soldiers of the Revolutionary War in Savannah, Georgia. Hundreds of men from France's Caribbean colonies are believed to have fought in the conflict**

BENJAMIN CARP is associate professor and Daniel M Lyons chair of history at Brooklyn College, and an expert on the American Revolutionary War. *The Great New York Fire of 1776: A Lost Story of the American Revolution,* will be published later this year by Yale University Press

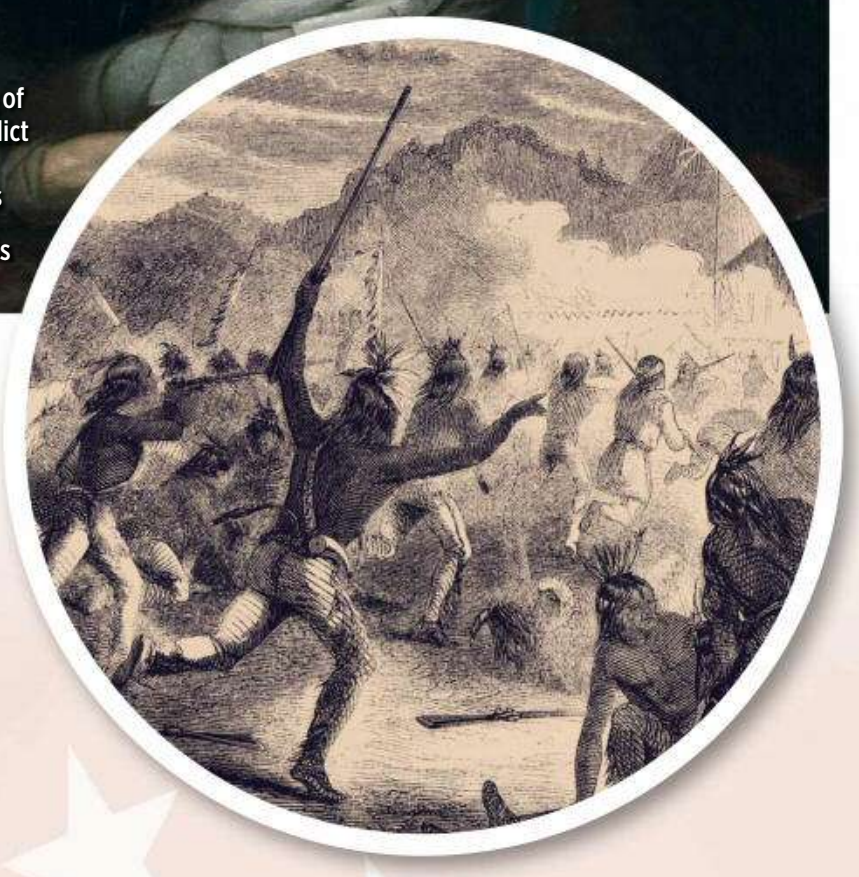
AMERICA'S ROAD TO REVOLUTION

Professor Benjamin Carp reveals how growing discontent over British taxes led embittered American colonists to rebel against the Crown and embark on a fight for independence

When Great Britain emerged victorious from the Seven Years' War in 1763, most of its American colonists celebrated the event as ardent British patriots. They were proud to belong to the Protestant commercial empire and they honoured their king and queen. But the end of the war with France also exposed problems in North America that proved difficult to resolve. Amid a postwar economic depression, the continent's settlers, enslaved labourers and indigenous peoples faced an uncertain new world.

For decades, many indigenous Americans had been able to play British and French interests against one another, but the departure of the French had changed the equation. The British empire no longer depended as heavily on its Native allies and the ministry hoped to reduce its expenses. After General Jeffrey Amherst scaled down the gifts that were a crucial ingredient of frontier diplomacy, a confederation of northern Native peoples attacked several British forts, from Fort Michilimackinac on the Great Lakes to Fort Pitt on the Ohio River. Amherst retaliated with biological warfare, distributing smallpox blankets among Native Americans around Fort Pitt.

The American colonists, meanwhile, eagerly schemed to seize the land beyond the Appalachian Mountains for themselves. The ministry knew that further settlement would continue to provoke warfare with indigenous people, and the country could afford neither the blood nor treasure that such conflicts would entail. The king issued the Proclamation of 1763, which prevented the colonists from claiming western lands. This arrangement left squatters to themselves and frustrated the speculative land schemes of men like George Washington and Benjamin Franklin. The colonists' frustrated ambitions contributed to their sense of grievance.



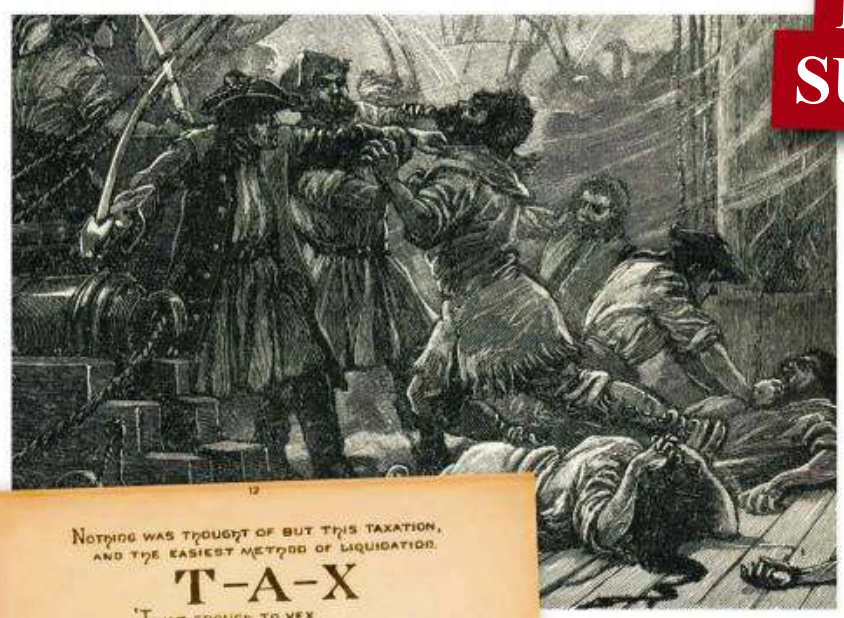
MAIN: **An oil painting by Benjamin West shows some of the main belligerents of the Seven Years' War, a conflict that lay the foundations for future discord between Native Americans and the British and French empires**

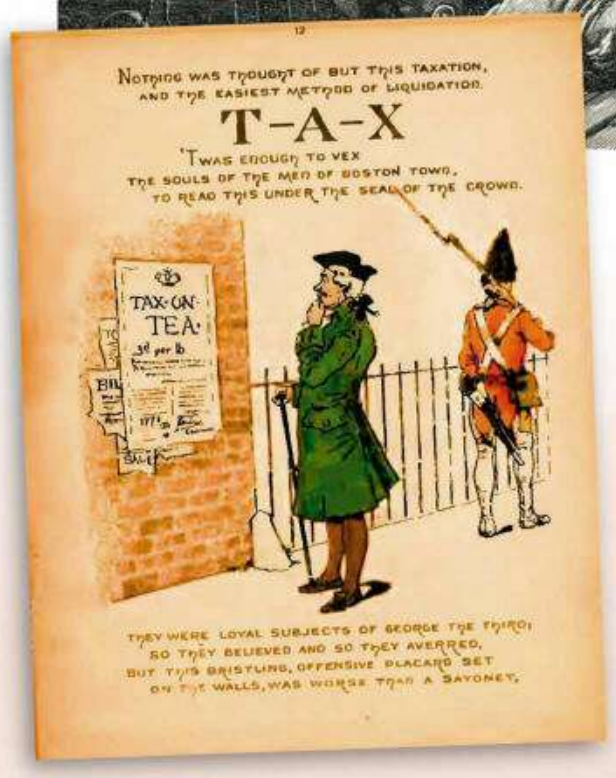
RIGHT: **Native Americans attacked several British forts in 1763, including Fort Pitt on the Ohio River**

GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X2

Great Britain had also incurred massive debts from its war for empire, and the Treasury shouldered further expenses by stationing troops in the North American interior. Rather than place the entire tax burden on subjects in Britain, parliament hoped to derive some revenue from its colonies, particularly in South Asia and North America. They passed a series of laws for the American colonies, including the Sugar Act of 1764, to discourage the

A fierce clash between colonists and British troops in Boston on 5 March 1770 resulted in the deaths of five people, including black protester Crispus Attucks




NOTHING WAS THOUGHT OF BUT THIS TAXATION,
AND THE EASIEST METHOD OF LIQUIDATION.
T-A-X
'TWAS ENOUGH TO VEX
THE SOULS OF THE MEN OF BOSTON TOWN,
TO READ THIS UNDER THE SEAL OF THE CROWN.
TAX ON TEA
3d per lb
THEY WERE LOYAL SUBJECTS OF GEORGE THE THIRD;
SO THEY BELIEVED AND SO THEY AVERRED,
BUT THIS BRISTLING, OFFENSIVE PLACARD SET
ON THE WALLS, WAS WORSE THAN A BAYONET.

ABOVE: **Clashes between American smugglers and the British authorities were rife during the 1760s**

LEFT: **A cartoon shows a colonist reading a "bristling, offensive placard" announcing the introduction of the 1773 Tea Act – a law that would lead to major protests**

"THE COLONISTS WANTED TO BE RESPECTED AS FELLOW BRITISH SUBJECTS, BUT FOUND THAT MANY PEOPLE DISDAINED THEM"

act of smuggling molasses from foreign Caribbean islands; the Stamp Act of 1765, which raised the costs of newspapers, playing cards and legal documents; and the Revenue Act of 1767, which taxed imports of items such as glass, lead, paper, paint and tea.

The colonists raised a constitutional objection to being taxed without their consent, and they responded with petitions, printed screeds, street protests and boycotts of overseas goods. Leaders such as Samuel Adams, John Dickinson and Thomas Jefferson emerged to articulate colonial grievances. Men gathered in taverns and called themselves 'Sons of Liberty,' while women participated by joining in efforts to limit consumption of overseas goods.

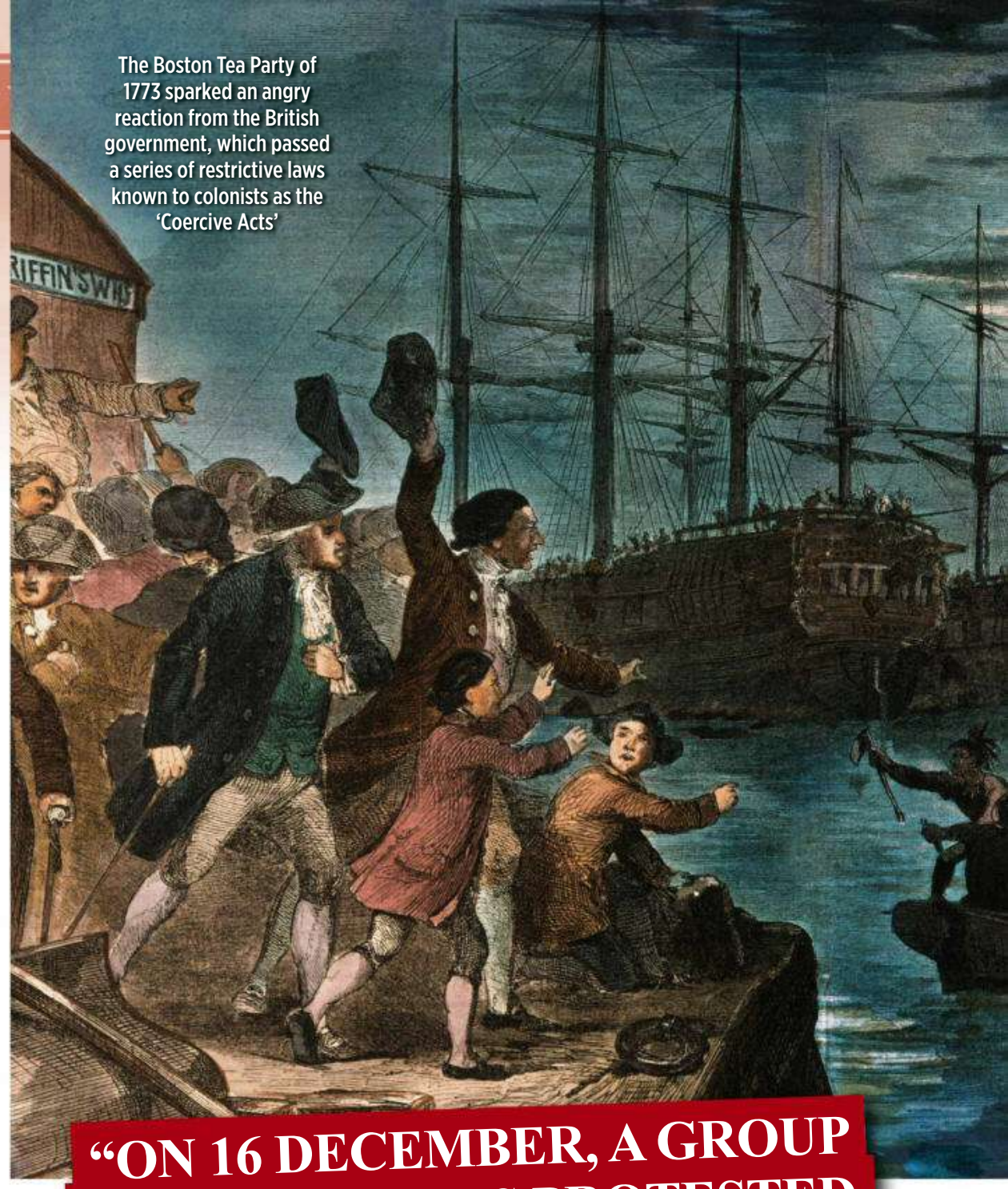
Colonists wanted to be able to trade freely, which would enable them to pay low prices for imports and fetch high prices for their produce. They wanted the British to respect them as fellow subjects, but instead found that many people in the mother country disdained them for their provinciality, their dissenting religious views, their military performance and their historic association with slavery, transported convicts and ethnic pluralism.

TRANSATLANTIC ALLIANCES

Black people in the Atlantic world heard these cries for liberty. Some joined local protests against parliament, such as Crispus Attucks, a man of African and Wampanoag (indigenous) descent, who was slain along with four other men in a fracas between Bostonians and British soldiers on 5 March 1770. Some, like Felix Holbrook, began to point out the discrepancy between the American 'spirit of freedom' and the oppressions of slavery.

Black activists forged alliances with small numbers of Quakers and evangelicals on both sides of the Atlantic. James Somerset, who had been ▶

The Boston Tea Party of 1773 sparked an angry reaction from the British government, which passed a series of restrictive laws known to colonists as the 'Coercive Acts'



"ON 16 DECEMBER, A GROUP OF BOSTONIANS PROTESTED BY DUMPING 46 TONNES OF TEA IN THE HARBOUR"

◀ enslaved in Virginia and Massachusetts and brought to England, sued for his freedom and won in 1772; the Lord Chief Justice ruled that slavery had no legal foundation in England. Phillis Wheatley, brought to Boston as a girl, published poems that raised consciousness about the injustice of slavery.

ABOVE: **A statue of African-American poet and author Phillis Wheatley – a former enslaved person whose writings called for people to be freed from bondage**

TOP LEFT: **A 1774 cartoon shows loyalist customs official John Malcolm being tarred and feathered by patriots in Boston**

GETTY IMAGES X5, ALAMY X1

A PARTY LIKE NO OTHER

Parliament repealed the Stamp Act in 1766 and most of the Revenue Act duties in 1770, but it kept the tax on tea in place, and it insisted on its right to make laws for the colonies "in all cases whatsoever". In 1773, the ministry followed up with the Tea Act, allowing the East India Company to sell directly to the colonies. The colonists worried that parliament was trying to entice them into paying taxes without their consent, for the benefit of a favoured charter company. On 16 December, a group of Bostonians protested by dressing as Native Americans and dumping 46 tonnes of the company's tea in the harbour.

By this time, parliament was so angry with protest actions in Boston that they passed a series of laws known as the Coercive Acts in 1774. They closed the port of Boston until it repaid the East India Company for its losses. They restricted Massachusetts town meetings and deprived the assembly of its voice in choosing provincial councillors. They protected British officials who were accused of capital crimes.

Meanwhile, the Quebec Act granted religious freedoms and western jurisdiction to Quebec, which struck the land-hungry Protestant colonists as a betrayal. Over the summer, local committees in 12 mainland colonies resolved to send delegates to a Continental Congress in September.

The resistance movement was particularly popular among the Congregationalists of New England, southern Anglicans and Scots-Irish Presbyterians in the backcountry. Dissenters and low church Anglicans both feared the appointment of a bishop in America and called for civil and religious liberty.

Other Americans distinguished themselves as 'friends of government' throughout the years of political resistance and would support the Crown during the war. Many colonists didn't trust the leading patriots for political, economic or religious reasons, or they predicted that violence would be ruinous. Many had benefited from their economic connections to the British empire and believed in the superiority of English liberty. British officials and many Church of England ministers were, of course, vocal loyalists. A number of minority groups were cool to the revolution, such as Highland Scots, French Canadians

ABOVE: **No one knows who fired the first shot, but the battle of Lexington marked the opening engagement of the Revolutionary War**

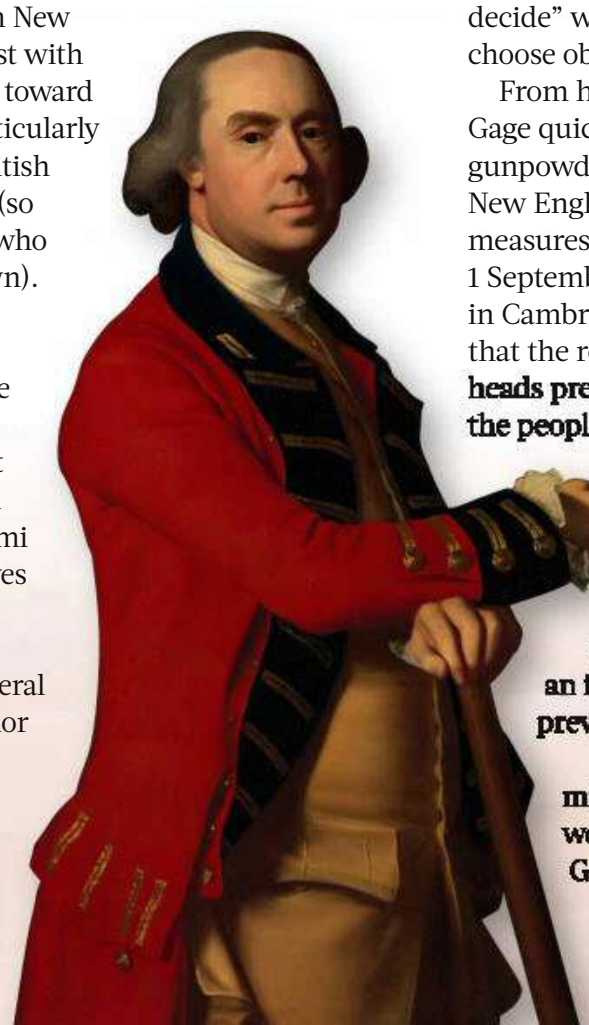
LEFT: **A satirical cartoon mocks the British MP Charles James Fox, a radical who ardently supported the American colonies' fight for Independence**

and non-evangelical Dutch and German Protestants who owed their privileges to the Crown. Pacifist sects such as the Quakers and Moravians also argued against violent rebellion.

"SUBMIT OR TRIUMPH"

Many enslaved black people took advantage of political unrest and fled from their American owners. Although some black men, particularly in New England, would eventually enlist with the Continental Army as a path toward emancipation, many more, particularly in the South, would join the British Army in exchange for freedom (so long as they fled from masters who were rebelling against the Crown). Most Native American groups feared the land hunger of the white settlers: some, such as the Stockbridge or Catawba, made alliances with the colonists, but many more confederacies, such as the Shawnee, Delaware, Miami and Wyandot, aligned themselves with the British.

To calm the rebellion in New England, the ministry sent General Thomas Gage to serve as governor of Massachusetts in 1774, along with 3,000 soldiers. (Boston only had a population of about 16,000 people at the time.)



General Thomas Gage was tasked with calming the rebellion in New England, but his efforts to seize patriot weapons ended up sparking the battles of Lexington and Concord

As early as 11 September, George III wrote, "the dye is now cast, the Colonies must either submit or triumph". Parliament prohibited arms shipments to America on 19 October. Finally, the king declared New England in a "state of rebellion" on 18 November, concluding "blows must decide" whether the colonists would choose obedience or independence.

From his headquarters in Boston, Gage quickly realised he had to keep gunpowder out of the hands of the New Englanders. His preventative measures almost touched off a revolt on 1 September, with thousands gathering in Cambridge, Massachusetts, believing that the rebellion had begun, until cooler heads prevailed. **On 26 February 1775, the people of Salem, Massachusetts, forced the 64th Regiment to retreat empty-handed. Gage's spies told him that the rebels were storing weapons in Concord, where an illegal provincial congress had previously met.**

After receiving orders from the ministry to confiscate the rebels' weapons and arrest their leaders, Gage sent 700 grenadiers and light infantry under Lieutenant-Colonel Francis Smith to Concord on 18 April. The British expedition encountered resistance at Lexington in the early morning hours of 19 April. No one knows who fired the first shot, but the gunfire left eight colonists dead and wounded other men on both sides. After the British detachment pressed onward to Concord, another battle at North Bridge led to three British soldiers killed and two colonists.

New Englanders rose up en masse. Militiamen fired on the British column during the retreat to Boston. In the coming weeks, both sides blamed one another for committing acts of butchery, and 20,000 New Englanders surrounded the British garrison at Boston. The war had begun. Within months, Washington would take his place at the head of a Continental Army in rebellion. A year later, 13 colonies formally declared their independence from the Crown.

BENJAMIN CARP is associate professor and Daniel M Lyons chair of history at Brooklyn College, and an expert on the American Revolutionary War. His books include *Defiance of the Patriots: The Boston Tea Party and the Making of America* (Yale University Press, 2010)

5 THINGS YOU (PROBABLY) DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT...

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

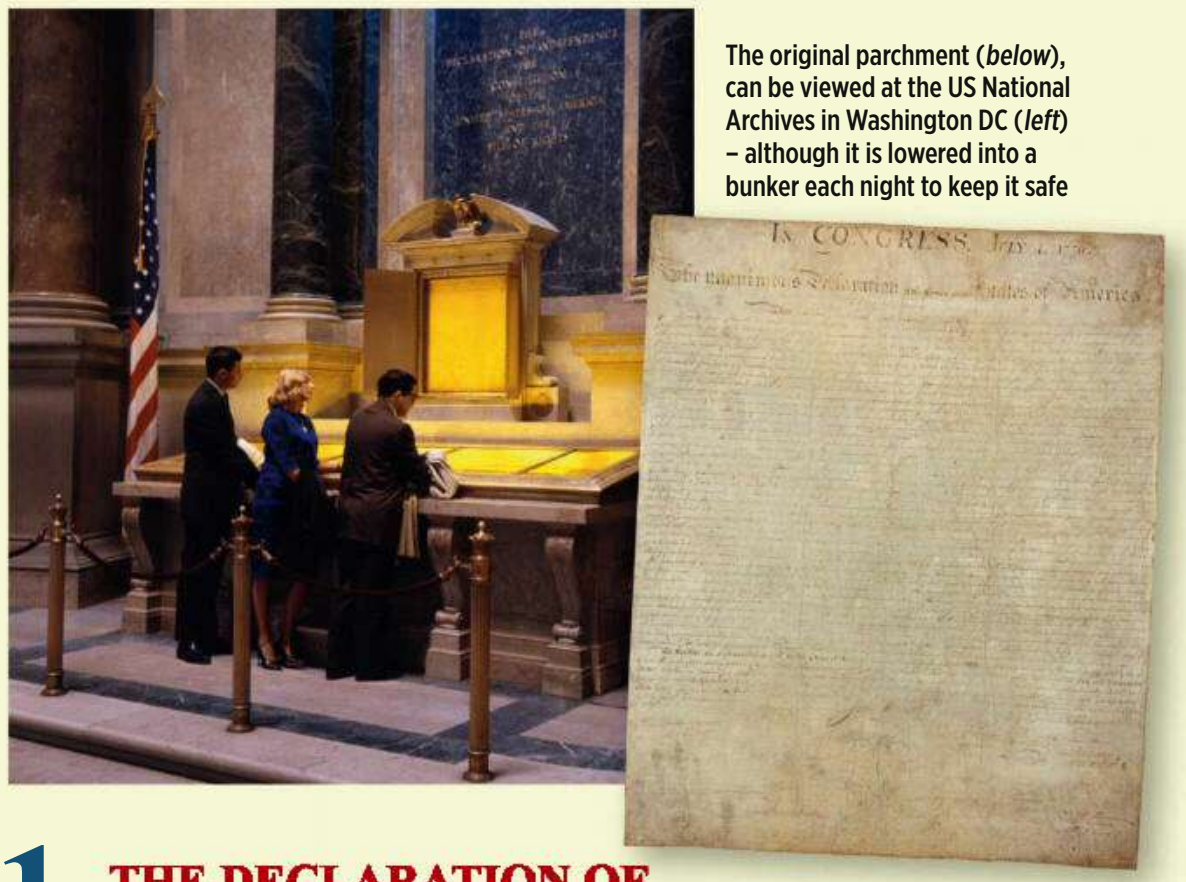
In 1776, as the conflict heated up, Britain's North American colonies announced their independence with a groundbreaking document. **Dr Tom Cutterham** explores the Declaration's lasting impact

On 2 July 1776, in the Pennsylvanian State House in Philadelphia, representatives from Britain's colonies in North America voted, at last, to publicly break their bonds with the mother country and its king, George III.

But 2 July is not the day that Americans celebrate every year. They chose instead 4 July, two days later, when congressmen approved the final version of the Declaration of Independence a document that would announce their decision to the world.

Drafted mostly by Thomas Jefferson, a prominent lawyer and planter from Virginia (and later the third president of the United States between 1801 09), the Declaration of Independence features the famous lines: "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal" and have "certain unalienable rights" among them "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness". The Declaration also describes Native Americans as "merciless Indian savages" and blames King George for inciting American slaves to insurrection.

Nearly 250 years later, Americans still celebrate the day their rebel leaders changed the course of history...



The original parchment (*below*), can be viewed at the US National Archives in Washington DC (*left*) – although it is lowered into a bunker each night to keep it safe

Parades are held across the US every 4 July – the date on which the final version of the Declaration of Independence was approved in 1776

1 THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE IS A SACRED DOCUMENT IN THE UNITED STATES

Not for nothing did the late historian Pauline Maier call her 1997 book about the Declaration *American Scripture*. Yet the document itself wasn't always treated well; it barely survived the British burning of Washington DC in 1814. But during World War II, the Declaration of Independence was delivered to Fort Knox, Kentucky, under Secret Service protection. In 1952, the Declaration was placed inside a bullet-proof case in a 'shrine' under the Rotunda of the National Archives in Washington DC. At night, it is lowered into a reinforced bunker. And every day, Americans file past and stare at it in reverence.

There's a share of the divine in the Declaration's text, too. Jefferson wasn't known as the most pious Christian, but he included "nature's God" in his text – by whose power "all men are created equal". He also closed the text by invoking its signers' "sacred honor" along with their lives and fortunes, which the American revolutionaries were putting on the line when they broke away from Great Britain.

MAIN: Early women's rights activists, such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton (*depicted here*), used the words of the text to promote their cause

LEFT: Venezuela signed its own declaration of independence in 1811

2 THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE HAS HAD MANY IMITATORS, AT HOME AND ABROAD

The events of 4 July 1776 helped inspire colonial independence movements around the world especially in South America, where revolution overthrew the Spanish empire during the first decades of the 19th century. Venezuela's 1811 declaration of independence, for example, had clear echoes of Jefferson's text, announcing that the provinces of Venezuela "are, and ought to be... free, sovereign, and independent states."

Revolutionaries across the continent and elsewhere drew on the American example, as they each asserted their right to self government against European empires.

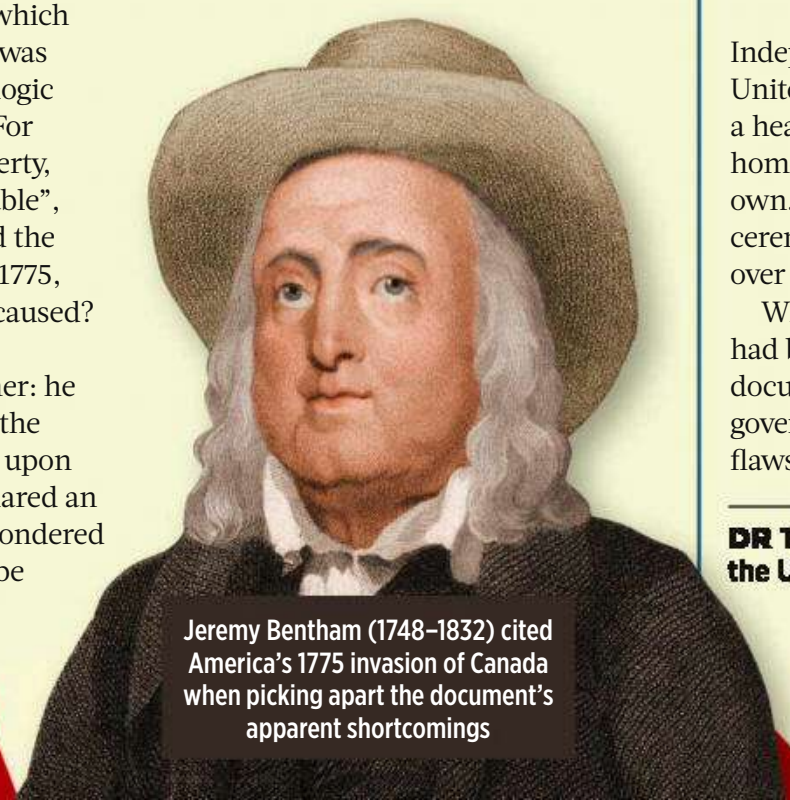
In the United States itself, the Declaration has also found many echoes in later documents. "That all men are created equal", wrote the abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison in his own 1833 declaration, was "the corner stone" of America's "temple of freedom".

Women's rights activists, too, used the Declaration's words to promote their cause and to highlight inconsistencies in the United States' implementation of freedom. "The history of mankind," it was declared at the Seneca Falls Convention of 1848, "is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations on the part of man toward woman."

3 JEREMY BENTHAM WAS NOT IMPRESSED BY THE DECLARATION'S LOGIC

Not many critics of independence responded directly to the ideas expressed in the Declaration of Independence, but the late 18th/early 19th-century British philosopher Jeremy Bentham certainly did. The utilitarian and future designer of the panopticon (a type of institutional building which represented a system of control) was thoroughly unconvinced by the logic of Jefferson and his co-authors. For one thing, if the "right to life, liberty, and happiness" was so "unalienable", he asked, then what had justified the American invasion of Canada in 1775, with all the death and misery it caused?

Bentham wasn't a fan of the philosophy of natural rights, either: he called the French Declaration of the Rights of Man in 1789 "nonsense upon stilts". When the Americans declared an unalienable right to liberty, he wondered if that meant "thieves are not to be restrained from theft, murderers from murder". He wasn't sure about all men being created equal, either. Wouldn't that mean babies had the same power as full-grown adults? Pure mumbo-jumbo, Bentham reckoned – not to mention a threat to government of any kind.



Jeremy Bentham (1748–1832) cited America's 1775 invasion of Canada when picking apart the document's apparent shortcomings

4 FREDERICK DOUGLASS ATTACKED THE DECLARATION'S HYPOCRISIES

Frederick Douglass (1818–95) continued to hold America to account while slaves still toiled on plantations

The British weren't the only ones to find fault with the Declaration. Frederick Douglass had escaped slavery as a young man and turned himself into a leader of the abolition movement, when he was asked to speak at an Independence Day celebration in 1852. With President Millard Fillmore in the audience, Douglass proceeded to denounce the hypocrisy of a nation that proclaimed "all men are created equal" while treating more than 10 per cent of its population as slaves.

"Could I reach the nation's ear," stormed Douglass, "I would today pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke... the hypocrisy of the nation must be exposed; and its crimes against God and man must be proclaimed and denounced."

Today, too, institutional racism and other forms of systematic inequality may seem to undermine the claims of Jefferson's visionary preamble. Perhaps the Fourth of July will become a moment to remember the promises left unfulfilled, as well as the achievements of American liberty.

Newly naturalised citizens celebrate on the steps of Jefferson's former home

5 EVERY FOURTH OF JULY, MONTICELLO WELCOMES NEW CITIZENS

Independence Day is celebrated in all sorts of ways across the United States – many of them involving barbecue, beer and a healthy dose of patriotic red, white and blue. At Jefferson's home in Virginia – Monticello – they have a tradition of their own. For more than 50 years they've held a naturalisation ceremony on Independence Day, admitting people from all over the world to become citizens of the United States.

When the nation came into being on 4 July 1776, no one had been born a citizen. The Declaration was a revolutionary document: it aimed to overthrow tyranny and create a new government through the power of collective action. For all its flaws, it can still today be an inspiration.

DR TOM CUTTERHAM is a senior lecturer in US history at the University of Birmingham

GETTY IMAGES X9, ALAMY X1

ROYALS, RADICALS AND REVOLUTIONARIES

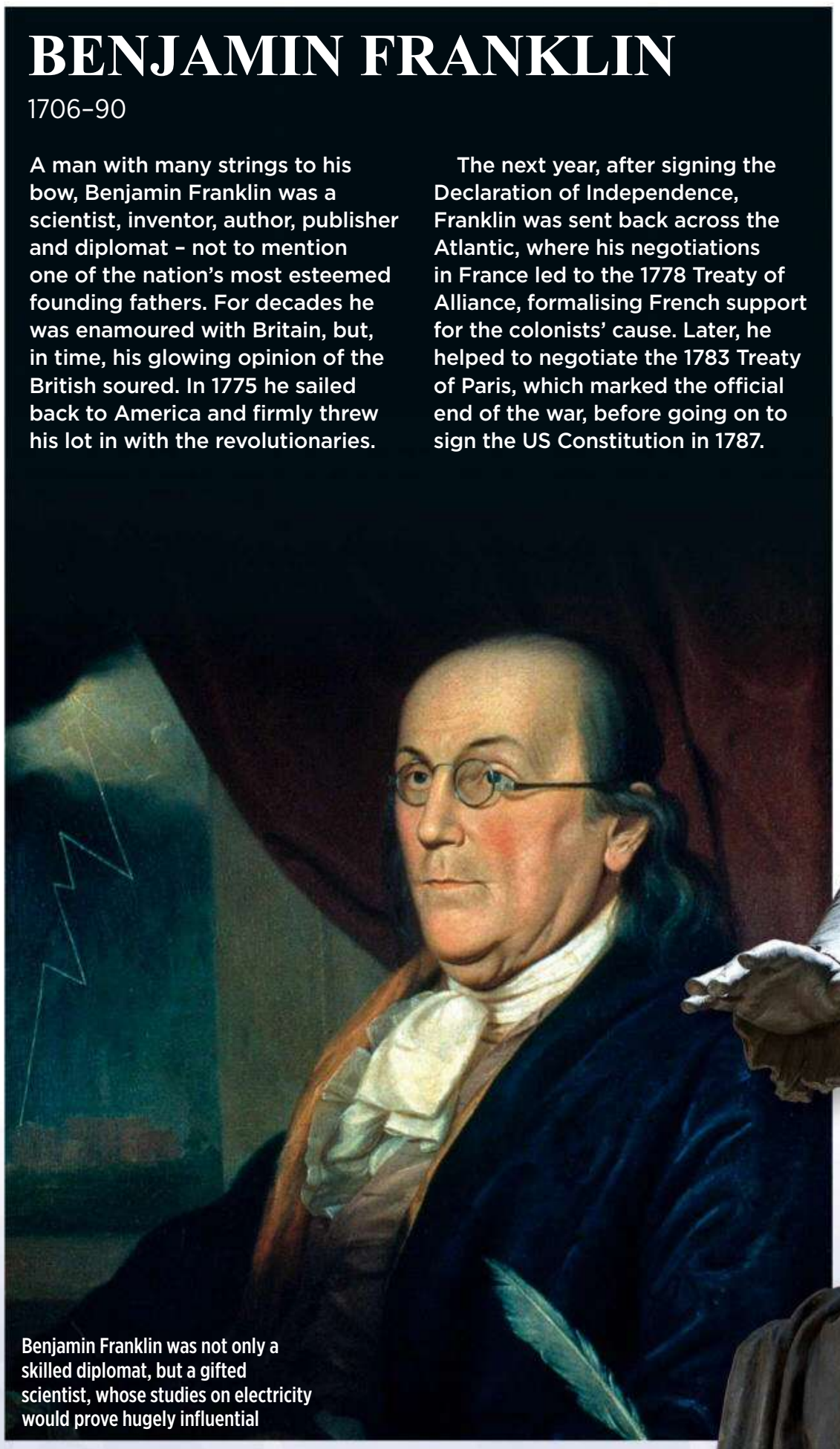
From the founding fathers to the British general whose surrender brought the fighting to a close, we meet the conflict's major players

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

1706–90

A man with many strings to his bow, Benjamin Franklin was a scientist, inventor, author, publisher and diplomat – not to mention one of the nation's most esteemed founding fathers. For decades he was enamoured with Britain, but, in time, his glowing opinion of the British soured. In 1775 he sailed back to America and firmly threw his lot in with the revolutionaries.

The next year, after signing the Declaration of Independence, Franklin was sent back across the Atlantic, where his negotiations in France led to the 1778 Treaty of Alliance, formalising French support for the colonists' cause. Later, he helped to negotiate the 1783 Treaty of Paris, which marked the official end of the war, before going on to sign the US Constitution in 1787.

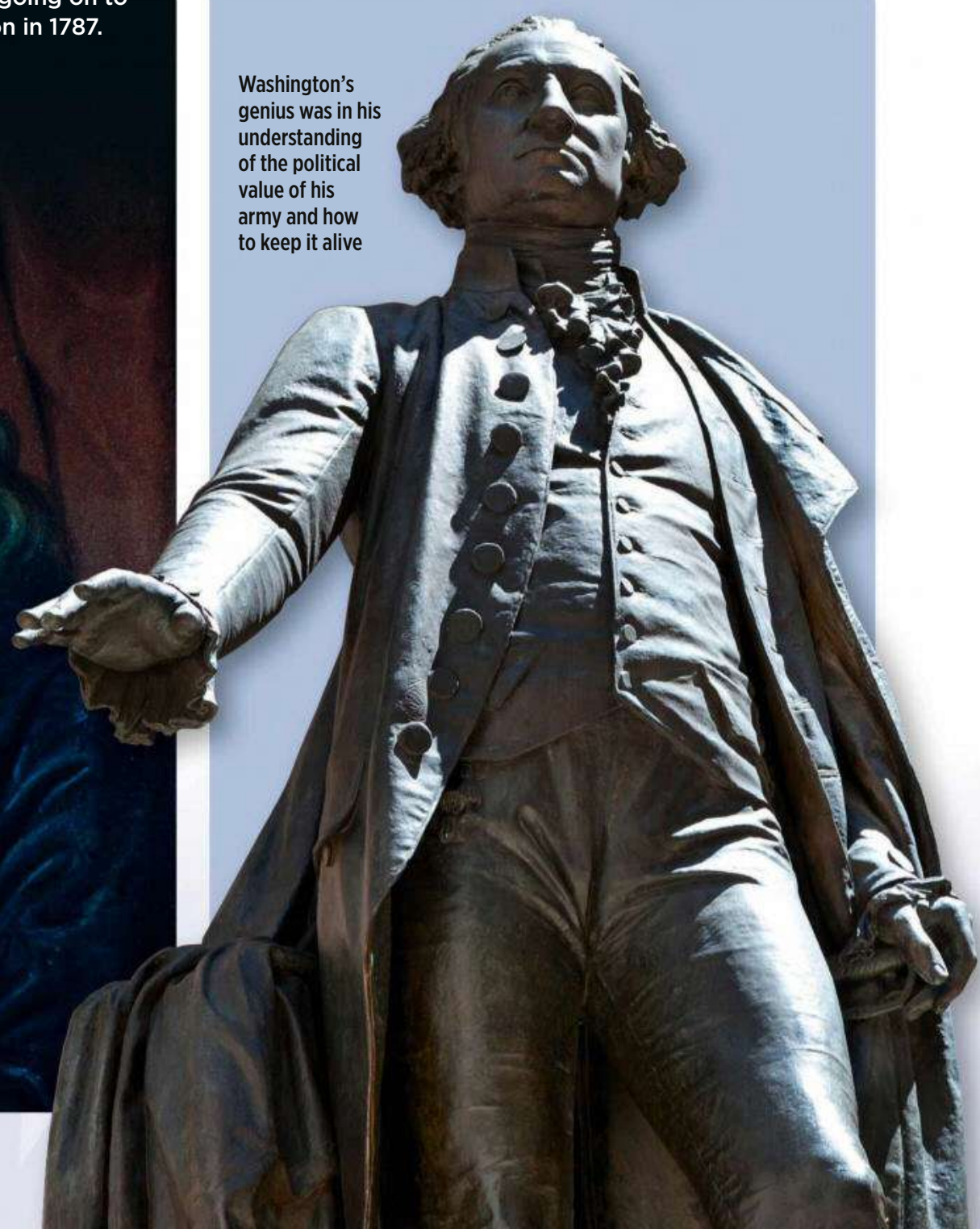


Benjamin Franklin was not only a skilled diplomat, but a gifted scientist, whose studies on electricity would prove hugely influential

GEORGE WASHINGTON

1732–99

George Washington was a towering figure in the American Revolutionary War, as well as being a highly capable politician. Taking the helm of the Continental Army through the conflict, he steered the military through initial struggles to victory over the British in 1783. Six years later he became the first president of the United States.



Washington's genius was in his understanding of the political value of his army and how to keep it alive

GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X3

ALEXANDER HAMILTON

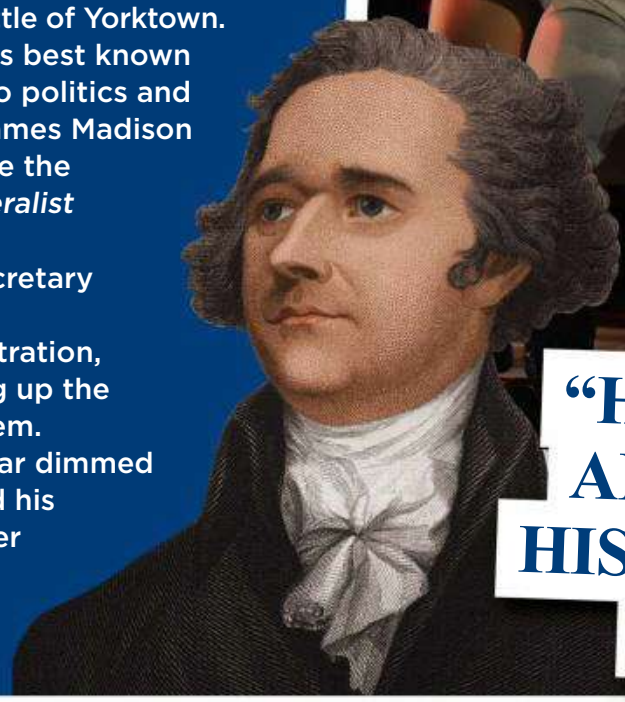
1755/57–1804

Best known today as the protagonist in Lin-Manuel Miranda's musical *Hamilton*, Alexander Hamilton was one of the Revolution's key figures. Born in the West Indies, in 1776 he joined the Continental Army where he became an aide to George Washington. He also saw action in the field, fighting at the 1781 battle of Yorktown.

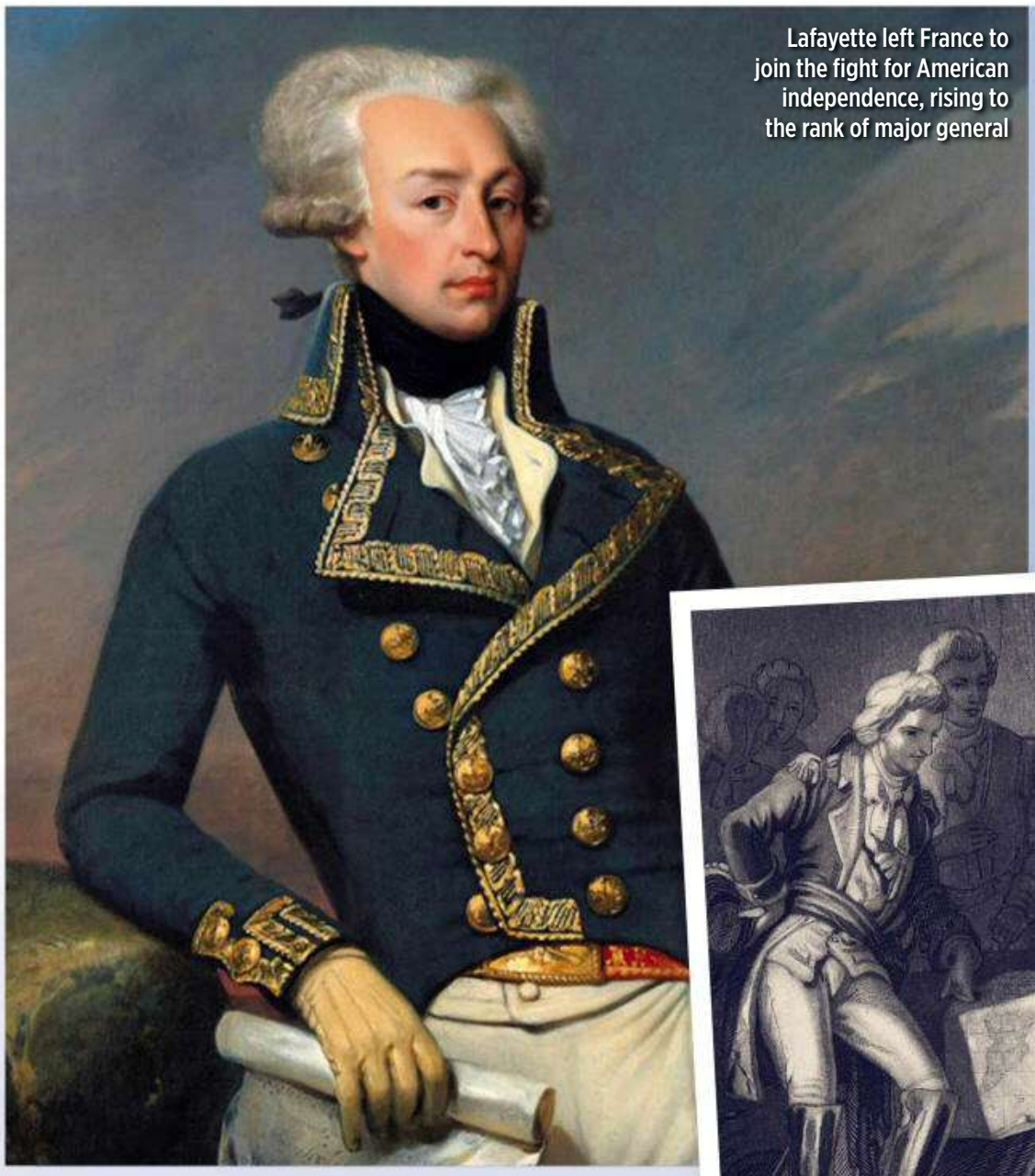
However, Hamilton is best known for his contributions to politics and finance. Along with James Madison and John Jay, he wrote the pro-Constitution *Federalist Papers*, and was the United States' first secretary of the Treasury during Washington's administration, responsible for setting up the nation's financial system.

Unfortunately, his star dimmed after an affair smeared his name, and he died after being shot by Vice President Aaron Burr during a duel.

The life and career of America's first Treasury secretary is the focus of Lin-Manuel Miranda's musical, *Hamilton*. Here, Miranda plays the title role in a 2016 performance



"HAMILTON'S STAR DIMMED AFTER AN AFFAIR SMEARED HIS NAME, AND HE DIED AFTER BEING SHOT IN A DUEL"



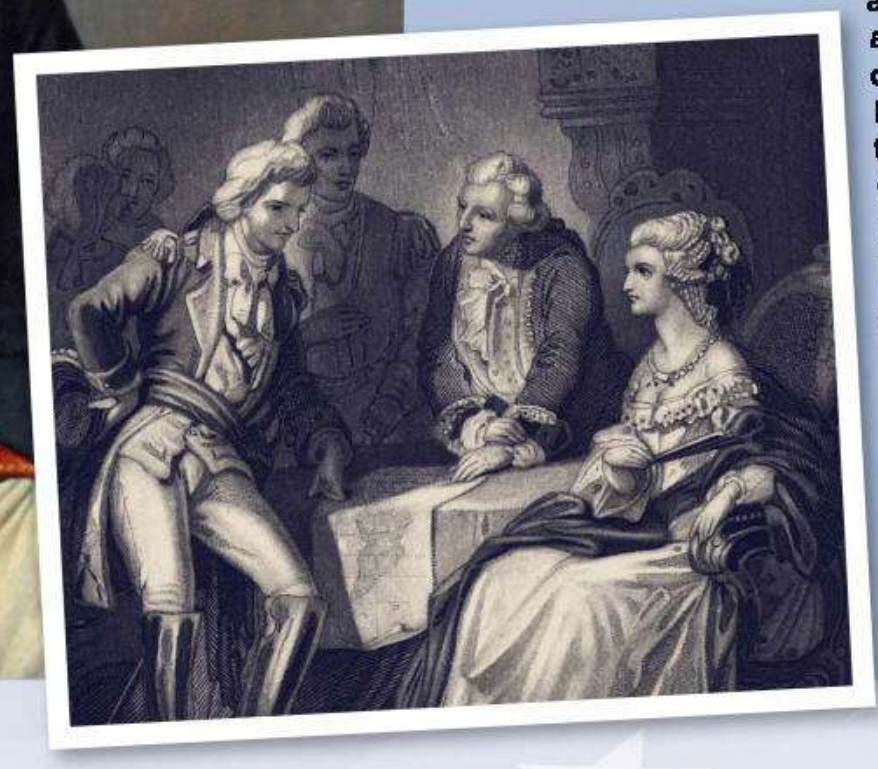
Lafayette left France to join the fight for American independence, rising to the rank of major general

THE MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

1757–1834

Gilbert du Motier, the Marquis de Lafayette, was a French military officer who took up arms with the patriots. Seeking the glory of the battlefield, he arrived in the New World in 1777 and became a major general in the Continental Army. He grew particularly close with George Washington, who saw Lafayette as his son.

Perhaps his most significant contribution was his role in helping convince King Louis XVI's government to front additional supplies and soldiers for the colonists' cause in 1779. In 1781, he also chased the British general Charles Cornwallis across Virginia, trapping him at Yorktown. Back in France, Lafayette played a crucial role in his home country's revolution.



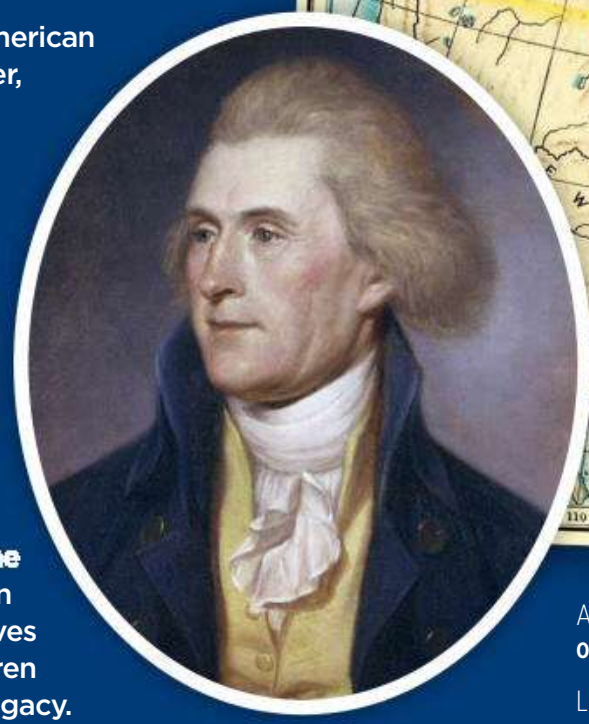
The young officer depicted with King Louis XVI and Queen Marie Antoinette before his departure to America in 1777

THOMAS JEFFERSON

1743–1826

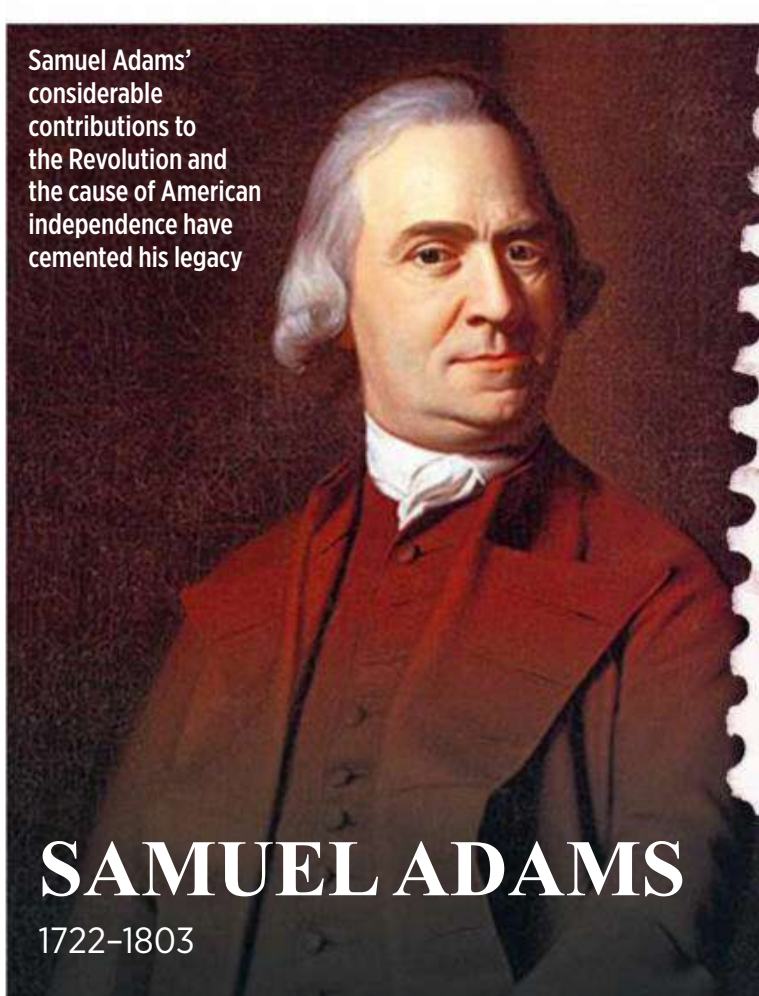
Few have contributed as much to American history as Thomas Jefferson. However, he helped not with his speeches, but with his writing. Staying quiet during the impassioned discussions of the Second Continental Congress in 1775, the following year – aged just 33 – he wrote the original draft of the Declaration of Independence.

Jefferson held various political offices, most notably serving as America's president from 1801 to 1809, after stints as vice president and secretary of state. During his two terms as president, he bought the Louisiana Territory from the French in 1803. Having owned hundreds of slaves (one of whom he fathered four children with), Jefferson has left a complex legacy.



ABOVE: A map of North America drawn up during the Louisiana Purchase of 1803 – a territorial acquisition masterminded by Thomas Jefferson

LEFT: Jefferson pictured in 1791, while serving as the first US secretary of state



Samuel Adams' considerable contributions to the Revolution and the cause of American independence have cemented his legacy

SAMUEL ADAMS

1722–1803

Another one of America's founding fathers, Samuel Adams certainly had a knack for politics. By 1764, the year of the Sugar Act, Adams had already established himself as a significant anti-British presence in the New World, and in 1765, he helped fuel protests in Boston over the hated Stamp Act. Crucially, he was also among the first of the patriots' leaders to announce that America's independence was their ultimate goal. The leader of the Massachusetts 'radicals', Adams sat on the Continental Congress until 1781, and continued to play an important role after the war as the governor of Massachusetts from 1794 to 1797.

Salem Poor was commemorated on a US postage stamp in 1975, commemorating 200 years since his heroics at the battle of Bunker Hill – the first major battle of the Revolutionary War

SALEM POOR

c1747–1802

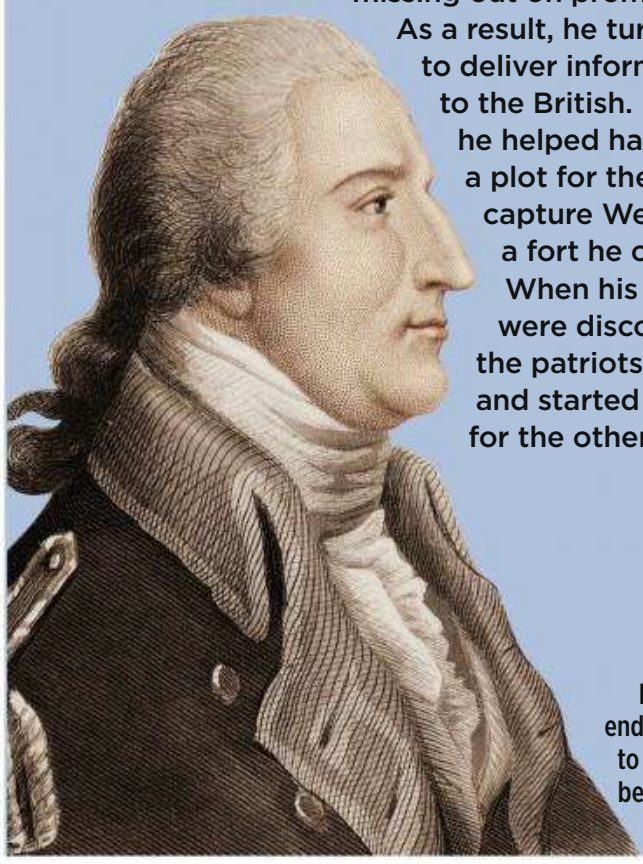
Beginning life as an enslaved person in Massachusetts, by 1769 Salem Poor had purchased his freedom for £27. When the Revolutionary War broke out he joined the Massachusetts militia, going on to take part in several offensives. During the battle of Bunker Hill in 1775, Poor is believed to have helped fend off waves of British troops. For his valiant efforts, 14 officers submitted a petition to Congress where they commended him as "a brave and gallant soldier" and recommended he be rewarded. However, the General Court never acted upon this recommendation.

GETTY IMAGES X4, ALAMY X4

BENEDICT ARNOLD

1741–1801

Although most figures here are celebrated for their contributions to the war, Benedict Arnold is remembered for his sabotage. Despite his initial exemplary service as a general in the Continental Army during campaigns and battles in Quebec, Saratoga and Valcour Island, he was upset after missing out on promotions. As a result, he turned coat to deliver information to the British. In 1780 he helped hatch a plot for them to capture West Point, a fort he controlled. When his plans were discovered by the patriots, he fled and started fighting for the other side.

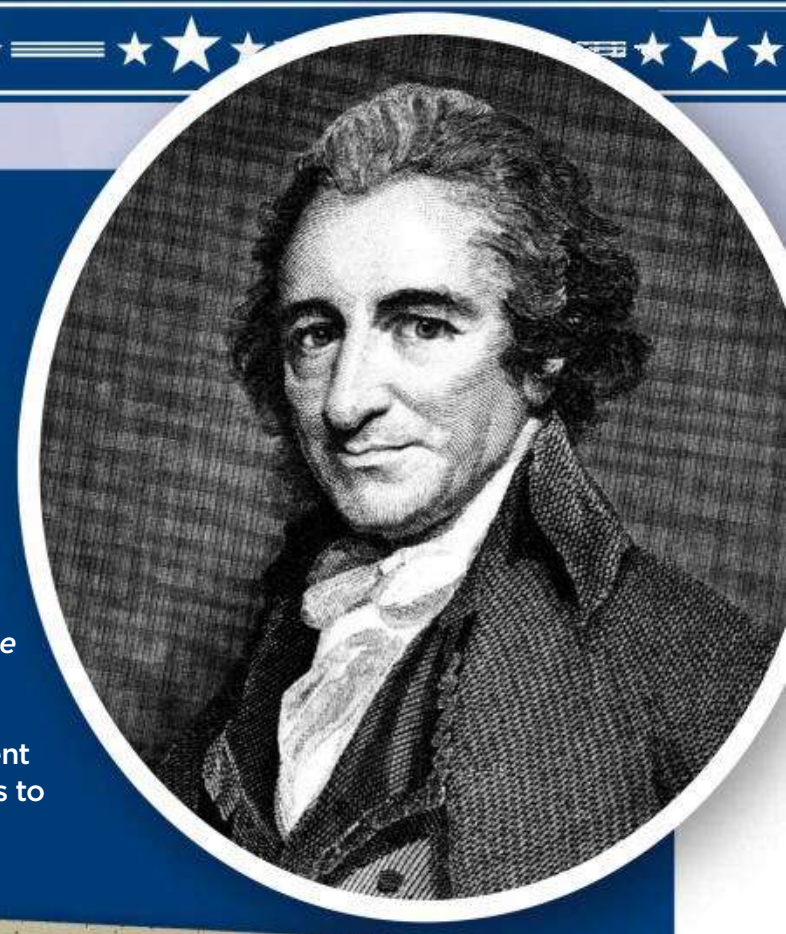


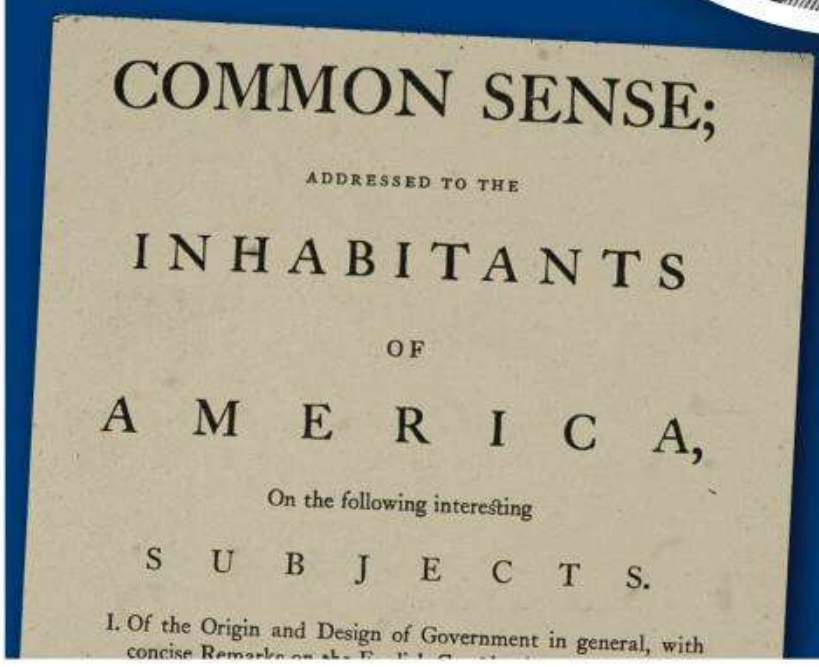
Benedict Arnold ended up defecting to the British after being passed over for promotion

THOMAS PAINE

1737–1809

Exerting significant influence over both the American and French Revolutions, Thomas Paine made a career as a revolutionary activist. In his 1776 pamphlet *Common Sense* he persuasively outlined the reasons why America should break with Britain – a document that helped unite the colonists to pursue independence.




COMMON SENSE;

ADDRESSED TO THE

INHABITANTS

OF

AMERICA,

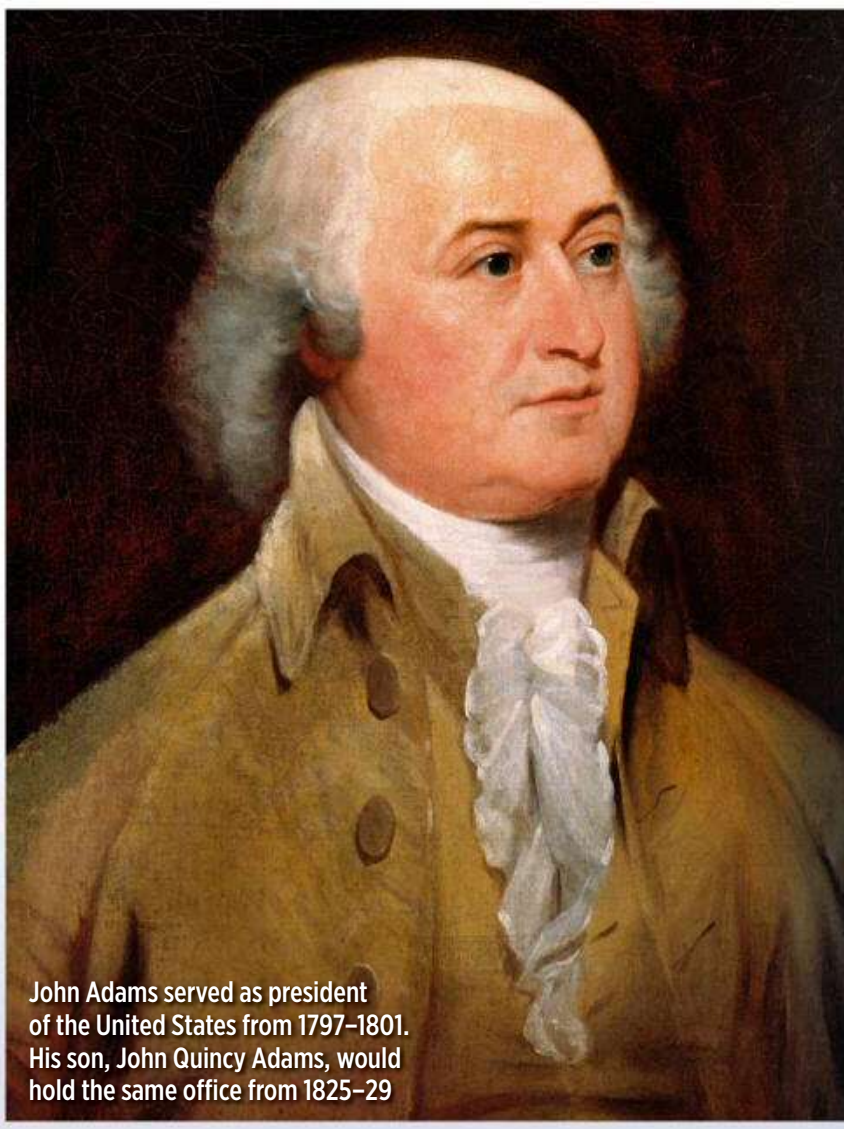
On the following interesting

SUBJECTS.

I. Of the Origin and Design of Government in general, with

ABOVE: Despite being an Englishman, Thomas Paine's radical writings urged the colonists to demand independence from British rule

LEFT: Paine's 1776 pamphlet *Common Sense* sold tens of thousands of copies within the first few months of its publication



John Adams served as president of the United States from 1797–1801. His son, John Quincy Adams, would hold the same office from 1825–29

JOHN ADAMS

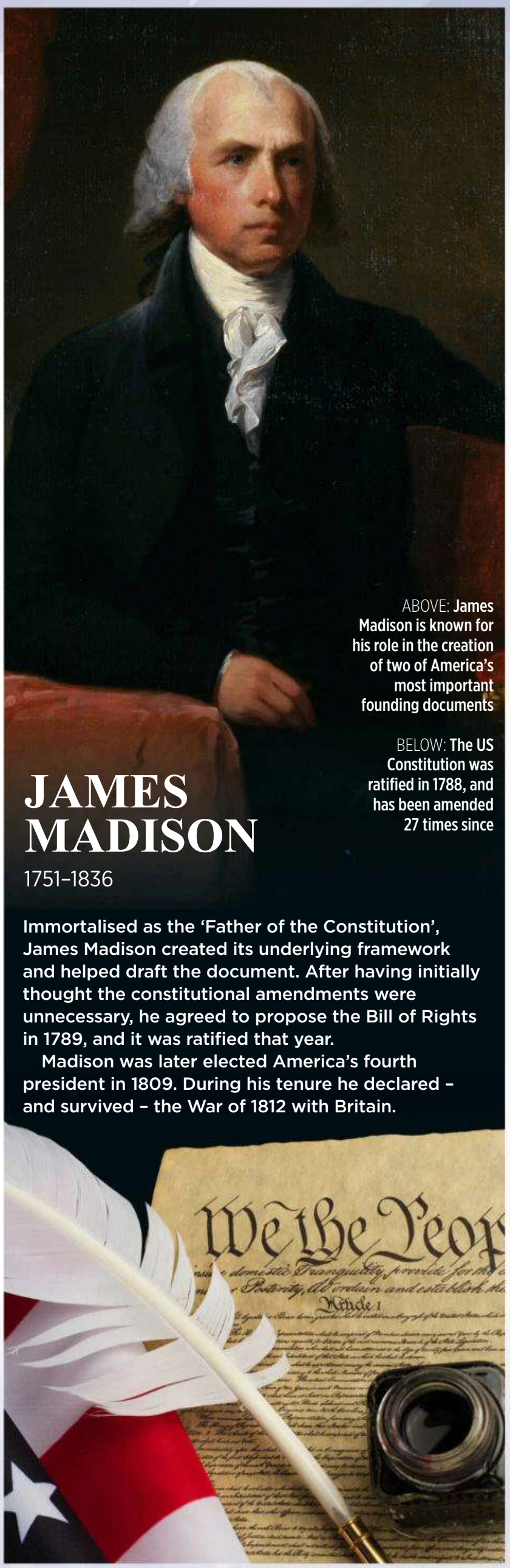
1735–1826

If Jefferson was the writer of the Revolution, John Adams was its speaker. After studying law, he soon joined the patriot cause.

While the Revolutionary War raged, Adams travelled around Europe as a diplomat, spending time in the Netherlands and Britain. Present at the first and second Continental Congresses, he delivered radical speeches outlining the reasons to push for American independence. Later, once the fighting had ended, he would go on to play a part in creating the Treaty of Paris.

Adams served as George Washington's vice president for two terms, griping: "My country has in its wisdom contrived for me the most insignificant office that ever the invention of man contrived." He was elected America's second president in 1797, and later retired to his birthplace, Quincy. He and Jefferson both died on 4 July 1826.

"ADAMS DELIVERED RADICAL SPEECHES, OUTLINING THE REASONS TO PUSH FOR AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE"



ABOVE: James Madison is known for his role in the creation of two of America's most important founding documents

BELOW: The US Constitution was ratified in 1788, and has been amended 27 times since

JAMES MADISON

1751–1836

Immortalised as the 'Father of the Constitution', James Madison created its underlying framework and helped draft the document. After having initially thought the constitutional amendments were unnecessary, he agreed to propose the Bill of Rights in 1789, and it was ratified that year.

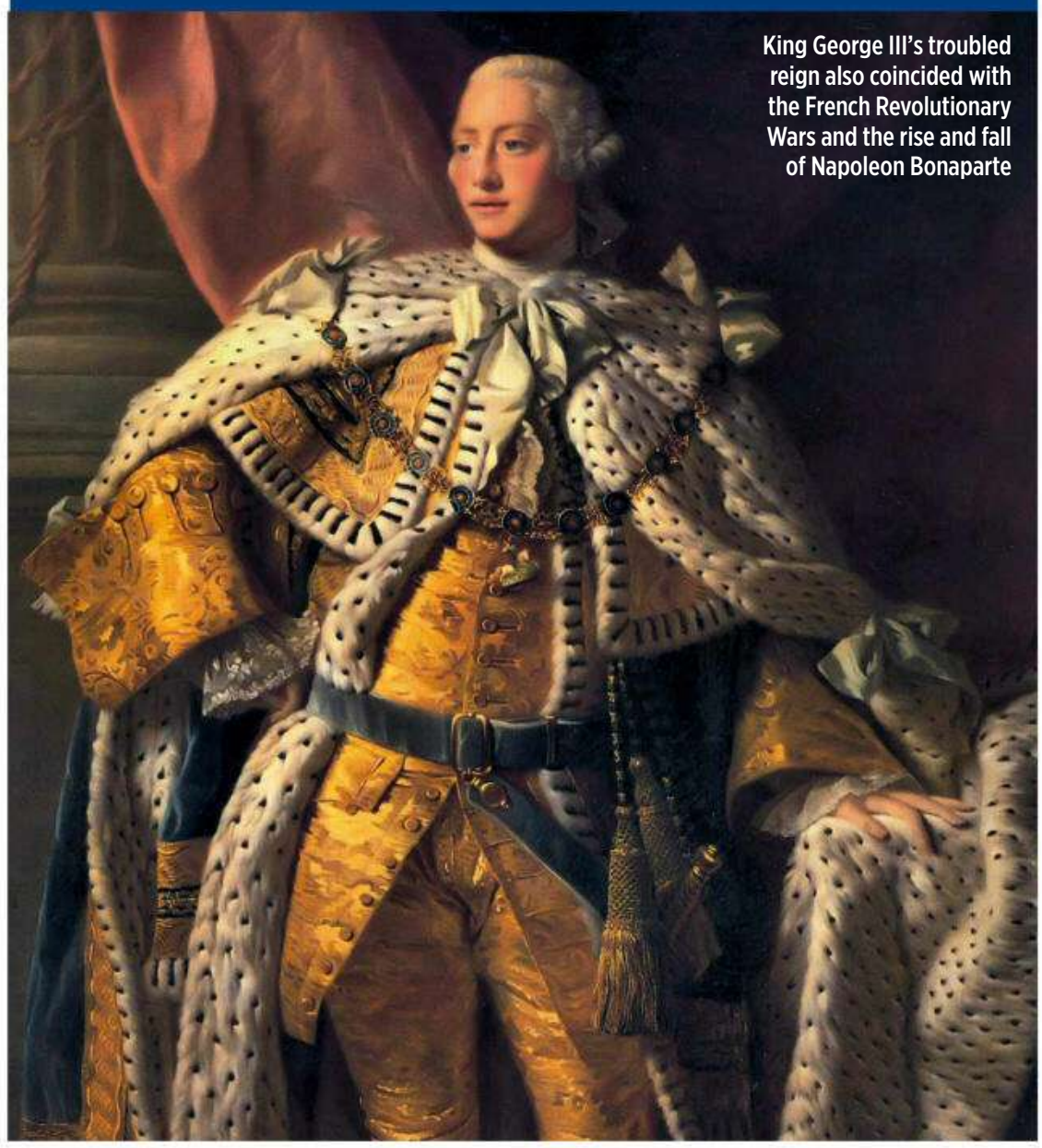
Madison was later elected America's fourth president in 1809. During his tenure he declared – and survived – the War of 1812 with Britain.

KING GEORGE III

1738–1820

Britain's monarch from 1760 until his death in 1820, George was the "tyrant" that the colonists wanted to break free from. While he didn't personally take charge of any military campaigns during the conflict, it was his signature – as Britain's head of state – that had been on laws such as the hated Stamp Act, which had drawn the ire of the revolutionaries.

During the final decade of his life, George was too mentally unwell to serve, and his son – the future George IV – ruled in his place as prince regent.

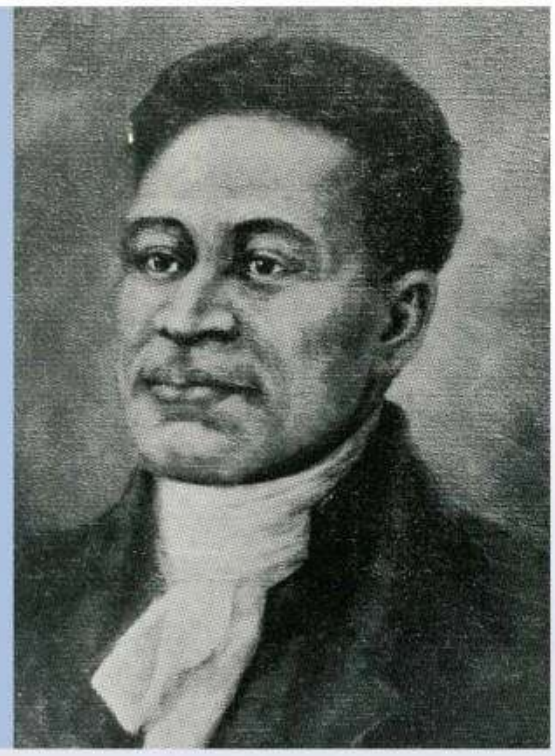


King George III's troubled reign also coincided with the French Revolutionary Wars and the rise and fall of Napoleon Bonaparte

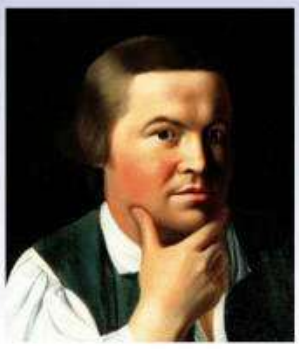
CRISPUS ATTUCKS

c1723–70

Crispus Attucks, who was of both African and Wampanoag heritage, is remembered as one of the first people to lose their lives in the Revolution. On 5 March 1770, he had been part of a throng of colonists in Boston who were shot after entering into an altercation with British troops. Five people were killed, including Attucks, and the incident became known as the Boston Massacre.



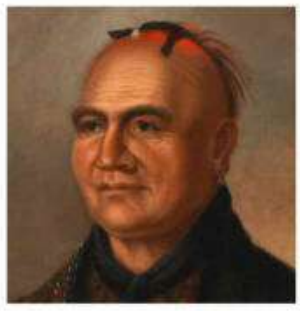
GETTY IMAGES X6, ALAMY X4



PAUL REVERE
1735–1818

Silversmith Paul Revere is famous for jumping on horseback on the evening of 18 April 1775 to tell the militia that British troops were coming. This intel helped the patriots triumph at the battles of Lexington and Concord.

JOSEPH BRANT
1742/3–1807



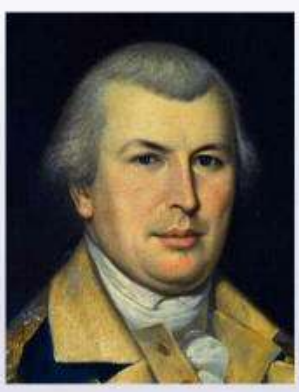
A Mohawk war chief who led colonial loyalists against the rebels during the Revolution, Joseph Brant (or Thayendanegea) was an important spokesperson, translator and diplomat.

JOHN LAURENS
1754–82

John Laurens was another figure in George Washington's 'military family', acting as his aide-de-camp from 1777. Although his father had been a major slave trader, Laurens himself thought slavery was unjust and tried – but failed – to get South Carolina to arm slaves in exchange for their freedom. He was noted for his battlefield bravery, which sometimes spilled over into foolhardiness. He died before the war formally ended, ambushed by the British in South Carolina in 1782.

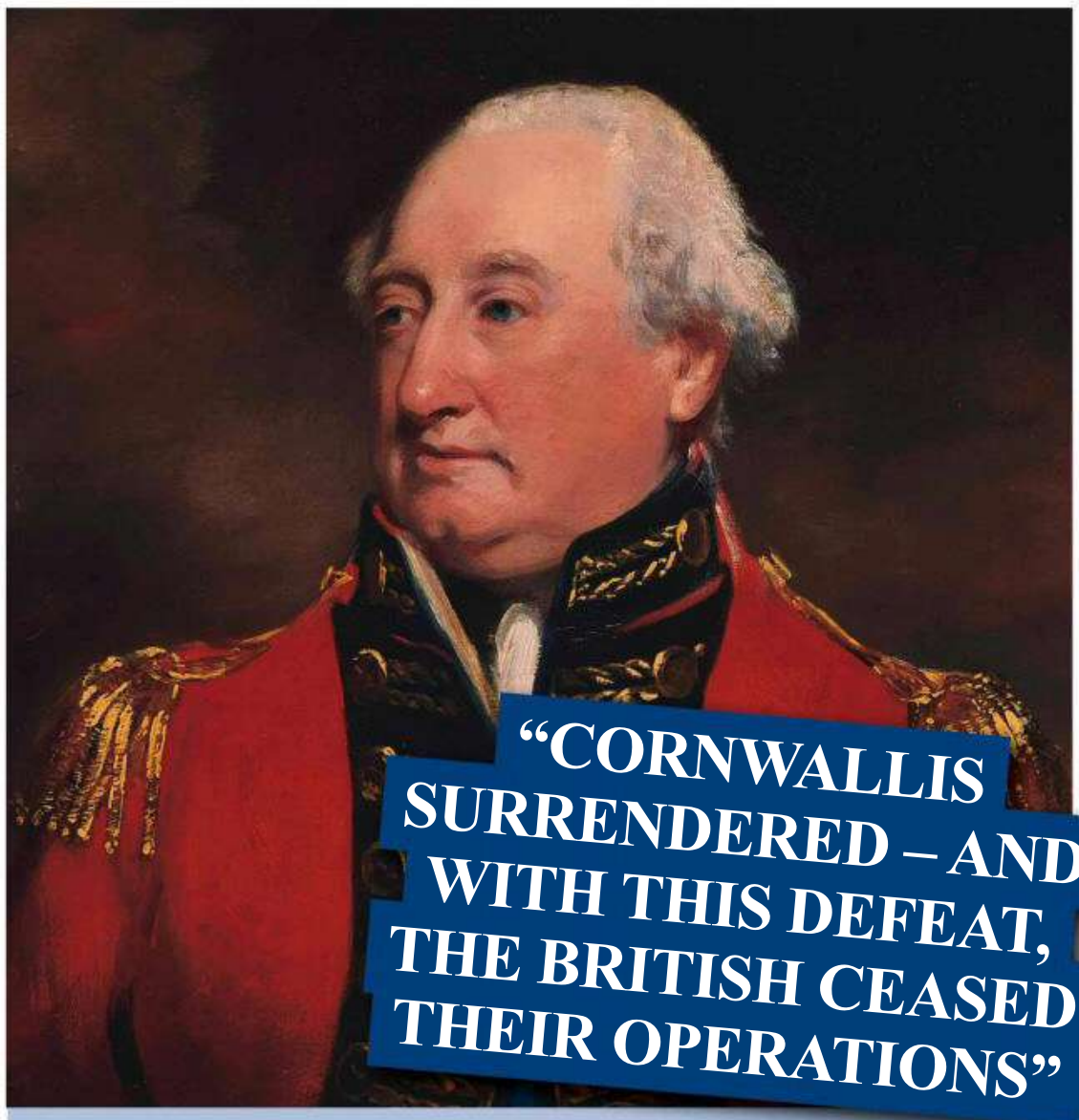
MARGARET CORBIN
1751–1800

Patriot camp follower Margaret Corbin manned a cannon at the battle of Fort Washington in 1776, taking over from her husband when he was mortally wounded. After suffering serious injuries herself, she was later awarded a military pension.



NATHANAEL GREENE
1742–86

Second in command of the Continental Army, Greene was a highly talented army strategist. In 1780, he was given command of the Continental Army in the South, where his mobile tactics were hugely successful.



"CORNWALLIS SURRENDERED – AND WITH THIS DEFEAT, THE BRITISH CEASED THEIR OPERATIONS"

GENERAL CHARLES CORNWALLIS
1738–1805

One of the British generals who took command in the Revolutionary War, Cornwallis lost the last major battle of the conflict in North America. In 1781 the Continental Army and their French reinforcements encircled him at Yorktown, laying siege to the British force. With food supplies running out, Cornwallis surrendered on 19 October – and with this defeat, the British ceased their military operations. After the Revolution he continued to serve Britain's empire, becoming governor-general of India and viceroy of Ireland.

WORDS: RHIANNON DAVIES

A REVOLUTION IN WOMEN'S LIVES

In the struggle for independence, America's "ladies" served as medics, cooks, campaigners and even as fighters

"Remember the ladies," Abigail Adams urged her husband John, in a now famous 1776 letter. "Be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors." Otherwise, she warned the future president, the patriots resisting British rule would soon face a revolution of their own, as women would not "hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation".

In their famed exchange letters of which more than 1,000 examples have survived Abigail often advised her husband on political matters. She was a champion of education for women, writing to John in 1778 that, "You need not be told how much female education is neglected, nor how fashionable it has been to ridicule female learning."

Abigail was just one of many women respected wives, relatives and friends who had the ear of leading patriots. Mercy Otis Warren was an avid writer for the cause who, like Abigail, corresponded with notable revolutionaries, drawing on her extensive knowledge of classical history and displaying a flair for a rhetorical flourish. In one 1775 letter between Warren's husband, James, and John Adams, the former inserts a paragraph from his wife, urging that Congress "should no longer *piddle* at the threshold. It is time to *leap* into the theatre, to unlock the bars, and open every gate that impedes the rise and growth of the American republic."

Warren also wrote publicly, with satire and commentary published under her name in Massachusetts newspapers such as the *Boston Gazette*. As a respected voice of the revolution, Warren's history book, a three volume tome that tracked from the stamp acts into the years forging a new nation, was published in 1805 and was among the first nonfiction books published by a woman in America.

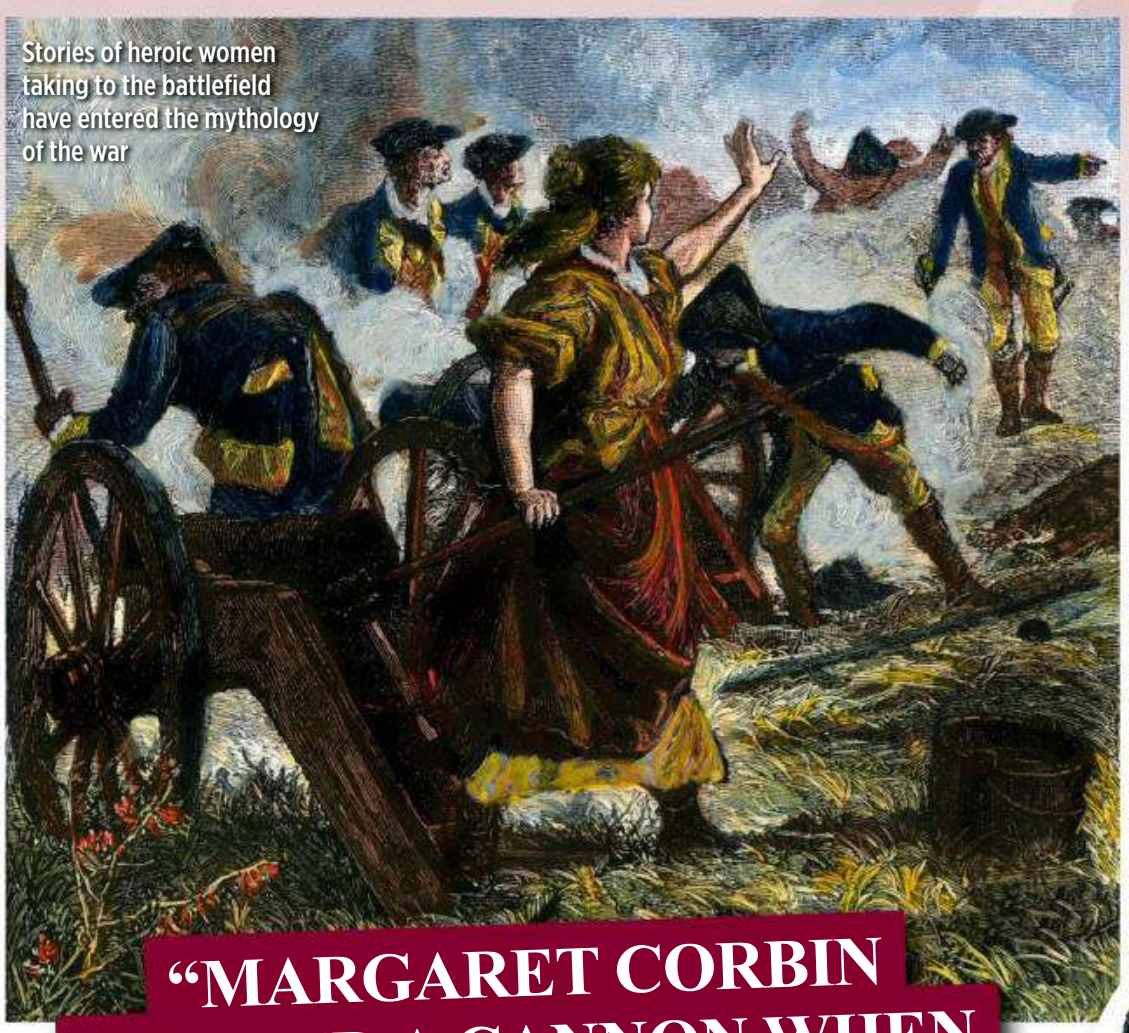
ON THE FRONT LINE

Putting pen to paper was one way that women could support the 13 colonies, but many also participated in the gruelling physical efforts of war. Many camp followers were women, who supported the Continental Army in domestic duties such as washing and cooking. Such work was vital in limiting the spread of disease and infection in the camps. Women also worked as medics. In 1777, Congress authorised nurses with the Continental Army to be paid eight dollars per month. They were not necessarily called upon to dispense radical medical care, but to keep soldiers healthy and comfortable, preparing medicines and broth. Martha Washington, wife of George, famously

ABOVE: **A woman is shown helping to forge weapons at the outbreak of the war**

RIGHT: **A late 18th-century portrait of proto-feminist and first lady Abigail Adams (1744–1818)**

GETTY IMAGES X4, ALAMY X3



Stories of heroic women taking to the battlefield have entered the mythology of the war

"MARGARET CORBIN MANNED A CANNON WHEN HER HUSBAND WAS WOUNDED IN BATTLE IN 1776"

made rounds through the tents of the sick to help care for the wounded.

While welcomed in many ways, the presence of wives and women who followed the camps for trades, such as seamstresses and sex workers, was also challenging. There were mouths to feed and camp followers needed shelter, too. There's a hint of exasperation in George Washington's words when he notes in 1777, "The multitude of women… especially those who have children, are a clog upon every movement."

However, the role of women in raising spirits in camps from holding dances and social events during quiet periods of the war to providing compassion and small comforts made them a vital part of the camps' effectiveness. But women weren't restricted to caretaking roles, with the likes of Abigail Adams taking charge of their family's investments in their husbands' absence.

TAKING UP ARMS

It was rare that camp followers saw battle action, although there were some examples of women becoming embroiled in skirmishes. Margaret Corbin, for instance, gained fame when she accompanied her husband at the 1776 battle of Fort Washington and manned a cannon when he was wounded.

Rarer still, some women disguised themselves as men in order to fight. Deborah Sampson, from Plympton, Massachusetts, assumed several male identities to serve in the Continental Army for 17 months in 1782 83. With her unit, she patrolled territory between British held New York and patriot held land, before earning a promotion to wait on General John Paterson. Despite several close calls during which her identity was nearly discovered she allegedly kept some shrapnel buried in her thigh rather than be closely examined by a doctor

Sampson was honourably discharged following the war. She was the subject of a biography in 1797, often giving lectures which discussed her military service.

As more scholars reappraise the lives of American women during the revolution, their legacies are being linked to later advancements. Today, for example, Abigail Adams' "remember the ladies" letter is widely regarded as a significant early step towards female emancipation in America. Yet ultimately, the "unalienable rights" of men put forward in the Declaration of Independence would not be extended to women until more than 140 years later, when the 19th Amendment in 1920 granted American women the right to vote.

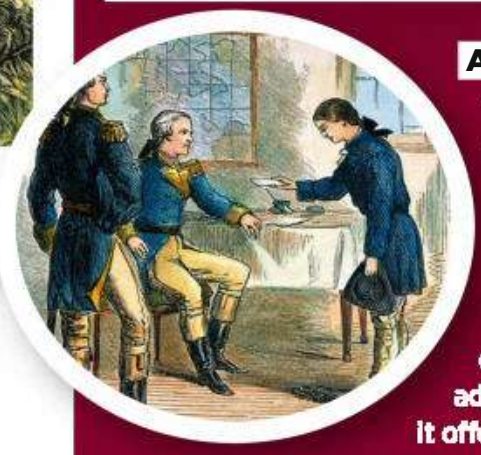
WORDS: ELINOR EVANS

A TRIO OF LIVES LESS ORDINARY

A WRITER

PHILLIS WHEATLEY

Born in west Africa, Phillis was forcibly transported to America as a young girl in 1761, where she was enslaved in the household of a tailor and business merchant, John Wheatley. She was given opportunities to learn to read and write, and soon showed prodigious talent for poetic composition. Writing striking verses on both the revolutionary cause and abolition of slavery, Wheatley's "elegant lines" were admired by George Washington. She is regarded as a preeminent literary voice of the period.



A FIGHTER

DEBORAH SAMPSON

Sampson was an indentured servant who dreamed of fighting for the revolutionary cause, eager for both the adventure and financial reward it offered. After several failed attempts at enlisting, she served using the names of Timothy Thayer and then Robert Shirtlif under Continental generals John Paterson and Henry Knox.

A FICTION?

BETSY ROSS

An upholsterer from a Quaker background, Ross is often credited with sewing the first American flag. According to Ross' grandson, William Canby, in June 1776, a delegation from the Continental Congress presented her with a rough drawing and asked her to sew a new flag, one distinct from previous ensigns displaying colonial links. She duly created a flag with 13 stripes, alternate red and white, and 13 white stars on a blue background to represent the union. Although little evidence remains to verify the story, her name is inescapably linked with the stars and stripes of the US flag today.

THE BATTLES
THAT MADE THE UNITED STATES

From the first shots at Lexington and Concord, to the surrender at Yorktown, we explore the most important clashes of the war

LEXINGTON AND CONCORD: 19 APR 1775

PATRIOT VICTORY
3,960 patriots v 1,500 British
ESTIMATED CASUALTIES
94 patriots and 272 British

The first engagement between the patriots and British troops put the two sides on a collision course that changed the world

"BRITISH TROOPS WERE FORCED INTO A HUMILIATING RETREAT BACK TO BOSTON"

The first exchange of fire during the American Revolutionary War actually arose out of a failed attempt to try and prevent conflict.

In April 1775, as tensions rose between the two sides and frustrated American colonists began to form militias, stories started circulating that patriot weapons were being stockpiled in the town of Concord. When the rumours reached the ears of Massachusetts governor Major General Thomas Gage, he quickly ordered Lieutenant Colonel Francis Smith to travel to Concord with an 800 strong force to seize the cache of arms and ammunition.

The colonists, however, were one step ahead and had already been tipped off about the incoming British forces. Several patriots are said to have ridden through the night on horseback to alert the local militia, giving them time to mobilise and intercept the British troops.

Therefore, on the morning of 19 April, a group of armed patriots largely made up of tradesmen and farmers confronted Smith and his men at Lexington Green, some seven miles from Concord. Spotting the gathered militia ahead, Major John Pitcairn and his light infantry were sent forward, leaving Smith behind with the bulk of the forces. Pitcairn demanded that the militia disband, but before long despite both sides having had orders not to shoot – the air was filled with the sound of gunfire. Who fired the first shot is still debated today, but British troops eventually charged towards the patriots, killing eight militiamen and injuring 10 more. Just one redcoat was injured.

The colonists retreated, and Smith and Pitcairn pushed on towards Concord, determined to find the hidden weapons. But a further skirmish with the now reinforced militiamen took place as Smith attempted to secure the North Bridge over the Concord River. Outnumbered and outmanoeuvred, the British troops suffered several casualties and were forced into a humiliating retreat all the way back to Boston, dodging bullets fired from trees and houses for the entirety of their journey.

By the time the British reached Boston, they had lost 73 men, with a further 173 wounded and 26 missing. Within two days, more than 15,000 patriots had surrounded the town, marking the start of a siege that would last nearly 11 months (*see next box*).

While the skirmishes at Lexington and Concord saw relatively few casualties, it was a political disaster for the British. What had begun as a mission to confiscate weapons had culminated in an embarrassing retreat and inspired thousands more to join the patriot cause, turning a colonial revolt into full-blown war.

GETTY IMAGES X5

 PLEASE NOTE: THE FIGURES IN THIS ARTICLE ARE THOSE CITED BY THE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST – NUMBERS CAN VARY DEPENDING ON SOURCE

SIEGE OF BOSTON: c19 APR 1775 – 17 MAR 1776

PATRIOT VICTORY
16,000 patriots vs 11,000 British
ESTIMATED CASUALTIES
19 patriots, 79 British

Buoyed with confidence after the skirmishes at Lexington and Concord in April 1775, the patriots' next aim was to take the city of Boston, which had been occupied by British troops since 1768. Clashes between British soldiers and colonists had been frequent in Boston in the build up to war, and the patriots knew the town would not be an easy win, since its harbour allowed the British to receive supplies and reinforcements. As such, a lengthy siege unfolded, with occasional military clashes, such as the battle of Bunker Hill in June 1775 (*see below*), at which the British emerged victorious, despite suffering devastating losses.

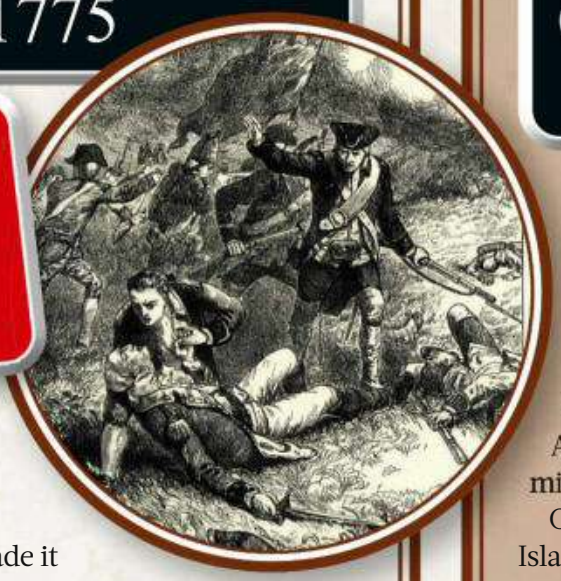
Much of the 11 month siege saw little in the way of actual fighting, but the arrival of General George Washington in July 1775 saw him take control of the newly formed Continental Army, introducing structure and discipline, and combining the various militias to create a united fighting force. Crucially, Washington oversaw the fortification of Dorchester Heights an elevated position over the town and armed it with powerful cannons that had been captured from the British-held Fort Ticonderoga in New York.

The British were forced to make a hasty exit by sea after Boston was captured by the patriots

Heavy bombardment of Boston began in March 1776, and Britain's General William Howe ultimately ordered an evacuation via sea to Nova Scotia, along with many other loyalists who had been trapped in the town.

BUNKER HILL: 17 JUN 1775

BRITISH VICTORY
2,400 patriots vs 3,000 British
ESTIMATED CASUALTIES
450 patriots, 1,054 British


An illustration shows the death of Major John Pitcairn at Bunker Hill

Despite officially winning the battle of Bunker Hill, the high number of British casualties made it something of a hollow victory. The British Army had intended to put an end to the colonial rebellion once and for all by attacking the patriots occupying the hills surrounding Boston. Having learned of the plan, however, around 1,000 patriot soldiers from Massachusetts and Connecticut assembled at nearby Charlestown to defend the summit.

As the British forces (under the command of Major General William Howe) made their way up the hill, they were met with a ferocious volley of enemy fire. Running low on gunpowder, the patriots were soon forced to engage in hand to hand combat, which allowed the British to break through and take control of the hill. Though victorious, the British suffered more than double the losses of the colonists, including the death of Major John Pitcairn, who many patriots blamed for the hostilities at Lexington and Concord.

Ultimately, the battle signalled a point of no return, and it became clear that peace would not be easily resolved without further bloodshed.

BROOKLYN: (OR THE BATTLE OF LONG ISLAND) 27–29 AUG 1776

The largest battle of the American Revolutionary War, the battle of Brooklyn involved 30,000 men and allowed Britain to retain its hold over the strategically valuable port of New York until the end of the conflict.

The British had turned their attention on New York following their defeat at Boston. The city was fortified by the Continental Army but many of these soldiers were inexperienced, few had any military training, and discipline was low – it seemed an easy win.

On 22 August, as 10,000 British infantrymen headed to Long Island, General Washington assumed (wrongly, as it turned out) that it was a diversion for a main assault on Manhattan, and he failed to combine his forces stationed in Brooklyn and Manhattan against the new threat. The Continental Army was soon being attacked on both sides, and Washington and 9,000 of his men were eventually cornered in Brooklyn Heights. As the British prepared to lay siege, Washington retreated across the river in the dead of night, avoiding surrender and capture.

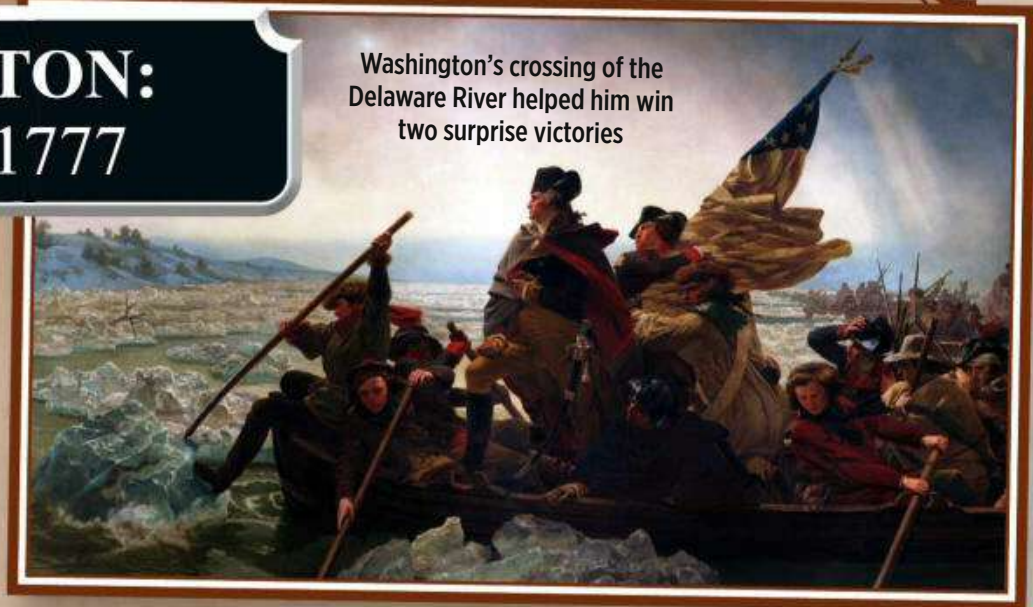
The Delaware Regiment, whose uniform would soon adorn the whole of the Continental Army

BRITISH VICTORY
10,000 patriots vs 20,000 British
ESTIMATED CASUALTIES
2,000 patriots, 388 British

TRENTON AND PRINCETON: 26 DEC 1776 AND 3 JAN 1777

BOTH PATRIOT VICTORIES
2,400 patriots v 1,500 British at Trenton, 4,500 patriots v 1,200 British at Princeton

ESTIMATED CASUALTIES
80 patriot casualties, 1,175 British (both battles combined)



Washington's crossing of the Delaware River helped him win two surprise victories

In late 1776 and early 1777, two patriot victories in quick succession gave a much needed morale boost to the Continental Army, which had recently been forced out of Long Island, Manhattan and New Jersey. In a surprise move on Christmas Day 1776, Washington and his much-depleted forces crossed the icy Delaware River during a treacherous storm. His troops then marched to New Jersey, where they surprised a garrison of 1,500 Hessians (allies of Britain). Although Colonel Johann Rall, commander of the Hessian forces, was mortally wounded in the fight, he formally surrendered to Washington before he died. Some Hessian troops managed to escape, but around 800 were captured.

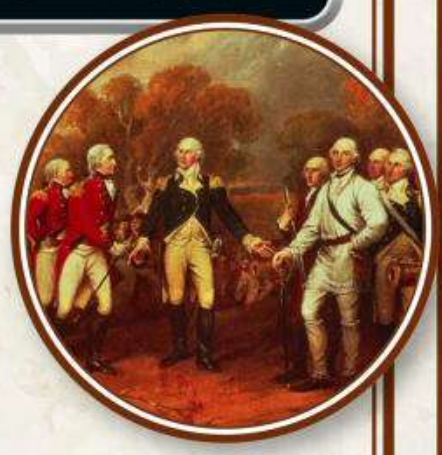
Washington withdrew his forces back across the river and amassed more men to his side before recrossing on 30 December, this time heading for the British troops based at Princeton. Severely outnumbered, the British were forced to retreat.

The two victories cemented Washington's reputation as an effective leader and gave the Continental Army the encouragement it needed to continue to fight.

SARATOGA: 19 SEP – 17 OCT 1777

PATRIOT VICTORY
15,000 patriots v 6,000 British

ESTIMATED CASUALTIES
330 patriots, 1,135 British



Burgoyne (*in red, with sword*) surrenders to Gates after his defeat at Saratoga

In 1777, a British army led by General John Burgoyne made plans to march from its base in Canada and meet a smaller British force from New York City at Albany. After taking control of the lower Hudson River, the combined forces would, in theory, be able to isolate New England from the rest of the colonies. However, on 19 September, Burgoyne's troops encountered the Continental Army under General Horatio Gates on an abandoned farm near Saratoga, New York. The two sides fought for several hours until a column of Hessian troops forced the patriots to pull away. As Burgoyne waited for reinforcements to arrive from New York City, troops flocked to aid the Continental Army.

On 7 October, Burgoyne then sent a force to Bemis Heights, where the patriots' left flank were encamped, but they were forced back. Freezing temperatures and heavy rain slowed Burgoyne further, and he was soon surrounded and forced to surrender.

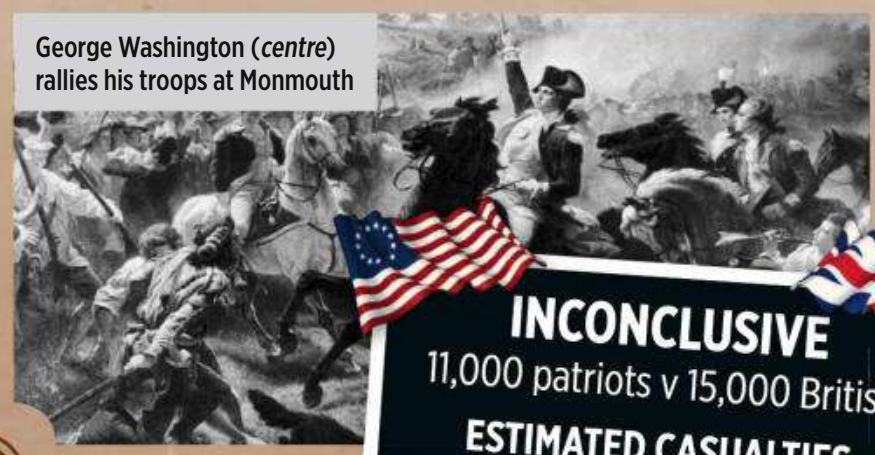
The patriots' victory was crucial in helping them secure the foreign support that they so badly needed: France would sign a Treaty of Alliance and a Treaty of Amity and Commerce with the US in February 1778.

MONMOUTH: 28 JUN 1778

On a hot, humid day at the end of June 1778, generals George Washington and Charles Lee launched an attack on the rear guard of General Sir Henry Clinton's British Army, which was in the process of retreating from Philadelphia after occupying it over the previous winter. Initially outnumbering the British two to one, and having recently undergone extensive military training, the patriots seemed to have a significant advantage.

But a promising opportunity nearly ended in disaster due to Lee's lack of confidence in the ability of his men and his inability to press his advantage. As Washington arrived on the battlefield, he was met by panicked troops fleeing the British forces. The furious general removed Lee from command, putting the Marquis de Lafayette in charge of the remaining soldiers, and fighting continued for several hours. By 6pm, both sides were exhausted.

Unwilling to renew the fight in the morning, the British left for the safety of New York under the cover of darkness. Lee was court martialled for his conduct and his military service terminated.



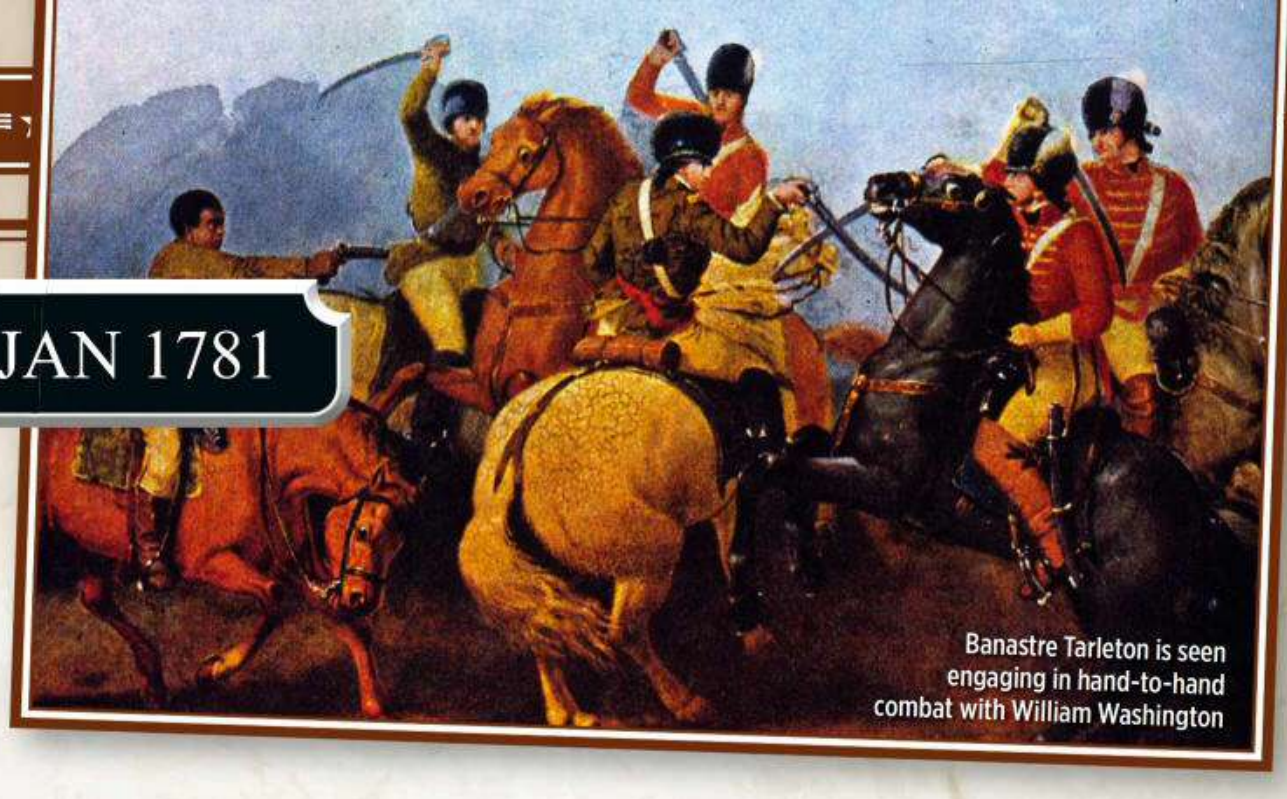
George Washington (*centre*) rallies his troops at Monmouth

INCONCLUSIVE
11,000 patriots v 15,000 British

ESTIMATED CASUALTIES
600 patriots, 700 British

GETTY IMAGES X6

COWPENS: 17 JAN 1781



Banastre Tarleton is seen engaging in hand-to-hand combat with William Washington

PATRIOT VICTORY
1,065 patriots v 1,150 British
ESTIMATED CASUALTIES
149 patriots, 868 British

As the war progressed, fighting shifted in a new direction as the British tried to garner loyalist support from the Southern colonies. But their 'Southern Campaign' was hampered by Brigadier General Daniel Morgan and his patriot army, who were cutting supply lines and interrupting British operations in the South.

British Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton was sent to deal with the situation, and the two forces met on pastureland in South Carolina in January 1781. In a superb example of military prowess, Morgan arranged his men in three lines and gave the order to shoot British officers first as a way of causing disorder. The second line of men was then ordered to fire a volley and move to the back, making it appear as if they were fleeing, and concealing the more experienced troops in the third line.

The gamble paid off, and the British troops suffered heavy losses. The patriot cavalry eventually destroyed much of what was left of the enemy as they tried to run, and Colonel William Washington a cousin of George Washington engaged Tarleton in one to one combat.

Tarleton shot Washington's horse from under him before fleeing the battlefield, but he was ultimately left humiliated. The defeat paved the way for the most decisive blow yet to come at Yorktown, just a few months later (*see below*).

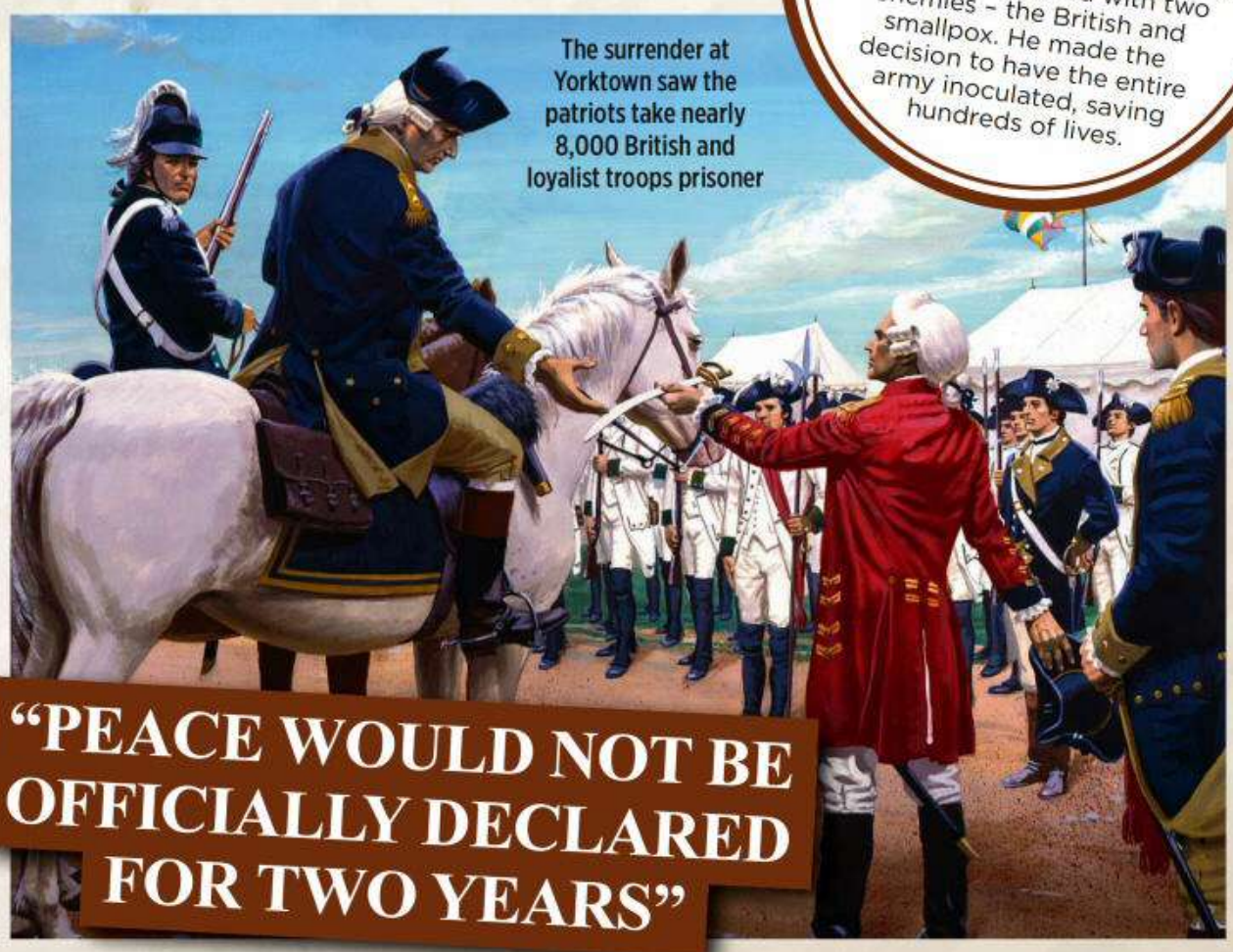
DID YOU KNOW?

ARMED AGAINST DISEASE

When George Washington took over command of the Continental Army, he was faced with two enemies – the British and smallpox. He made the decision to have the entire army inoculated, saving hundreds of lives.

YORKTOWN: 28 SEP – 19 OCT 1781

BRITISH SURRENDER
19,900 patriots v 9,000 British
ESTIMATED CASUALTIES
389 patriots, 9,000 British



The surrender at Yorktown saw the patriots take nearly 8,000 British and loyalist troops prisoner

"PEACE WOULD NOT BE OFFICIALLY DECLARED FOR TWO YEARS"

After six years of war, both sides were desperately seeking a definitive victory. A decisive blow was needed, and it came at Yorktown.

After being assured that they would receive French naval support, patriot armies marched hundreds of miles from their New York headquarters to Yorktown, Virginia. As a French fleet sailed into Chesapeake Bay and created a naval blockade around Yorktown, General George Washington and French commander in chief the Comte de Rochambeau headed south towards Yorktown to lay siege to British general Lord Charles Cornwallis and his troops, who were awaiting supplies and reinforcements.

Heavy bombardment followed, and with little in the way of supplies and following an abandoned evacuation attempt, Cornwallis ultimately secured terms of surrender on 17 October.

Almost 8,000 British and loyalist men were taken prisoner, and at the official surrender ceremony two days later, Cornwallis became unwell and his second in command took his place. Peace would not be officially declared for another two years while treaties were negotiated, but no further offensives were carried out on North America's eastern seaboard.

On 25 November, when news of the surrender reached British Prime Minister Lord Frederick North, he is said to have cried: "Oh God. It is all over. It is all over."

REVOLUTIONARY WARFARE

How many people died? What did soldiers wear on the battlefield? We look at the conflict's key facts and figures

BIG NUMBERS

c6,800*
The estimated number of American soldiers killed in battle

c5,000–8,000
The estimated number of African-Americans who served in the Continental Army

31
The number of ships in the Continental Army at its peak in 1777

c8,500*
The estimated number of British soldiers killed in battle

c20,000
The estimated number of African-Americans who served with the British

478
The number of ships the Royal Navy had at its disposal by the end of the conflict

*These estimated figures do not include soldiers from other nations who died in battle. Thousands more on both sides also died from other factors, such as disease, or as prisoners of war.

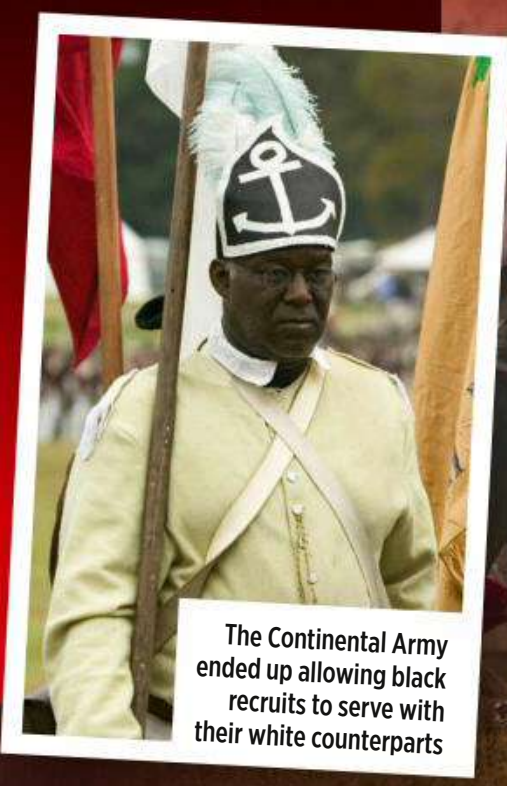
AMERICA'S FIRST BLACK REGIMENT

A shortage of white recruits saw enslaved black men join the Continental Army

By late 1777, as the war against the British dragged on, the Continental Army was facing a severe shortage of manpower. "No less than 2,898 men now in camp [are] unfit because they are barefoot and otherwise naked," wrote a desperate George Washington to Congress. States were subsequently ordered to fulfil their quota of militias based on their population, but Rhode Island, with a population of under 60,000, was unable to recruit enough white fighters. The solution, they told Washington, was to allow enslaved black men to enlist.

The royal governor of Virginia had already offered freedom to any enslaved person who ran away and joined the British forces, and thousands of enslaved men had seized their chance of freedom. Free black men – and some enslaved men in place of their 'owners' – were already fighting in the Continental Army, but Washington had been initially reluctant to offer freedom in exchange for service, fearing that to do so would incite slave rebellions and alienate Southern slaveholders.

The shortfall of men from Rhode Island had to be resolved, though, and in February 1778, the state's General Assembly voted to allow "every able-bodied Negro, Mulatto, or Indian Man Slave" to enlist, guaranteeing their freedom after the war. Consequently, more than 130 enslaved black men joined the 1st Rhode Island Regiment – better known as the 'Black Regiment' – seeing their first action in August 1778 at the battle of Rhode Island. White recruits were later integrated into the unit, serving alongside their black counterparts. The regiment was disbanded, along with the rest of the Continental Army, in November 1783.



The Continental Army ended up allowing black recruits to serve with their white counterparts

GETTY IMAGES X7, ALAMY X1

THE SOLDIERS

Tens of thousands of men on both sides of the Atlantic were enlisted to fight, but life in the army could be difficult and dangerous, with more soldiers dying from illness and disease than on the battlefield. But how did the soldiers of the Continental Army compare with their British counterparts?

ON POINT

Tricorn hats were commonplace in both armies. Wearing it with a front corner directly over the left eyebrow allowed a musket or rifle to be rested on the left shoulder, and gave better clearance.

DID YOU KNOW?

REVOLUTIONARY PANCAKES

If bread was scarce, soldiers could be given a ration of flour with which to make 'firecakes'. Similar to pancakes, the flour could be mixed with water (and meat and gristle if available) and cooked on a heated flat rock.

ARMED AND READY

The most common weapon on a Revolutionary War battlefield was the smoothbore flintlock musket, which measured around five feet long and weighed around 10 pounds.

HEAD FIRST

Grenadiers wore bearskin hats like this one. The badge on the front shows that this soldier is part of the 8th (King's) Regiment of Foot.

SEEING RED

British soldiers wore distinctive red coats – earning them the nickname 'Lobsters'. The varying colours of their lapels, collars and cuffs indicated their regiment.

DID YOU KNOW?

DEATH BY DISEASE

Sanitation and ill-health were big problems for both armies; it's believed that for every soldier killed in battle, nine died of disease. Smallpox, dysentery and malaria were all common ailments and could spread rapidly around army encampments.

MULTI-COLOUR

Although often depicted in blue jackets, the Continental Army did not have a standard uniform until 1779. Brown, grey and even red were also used.

BROWN BESS

Capable of firing 3–4 shots a minute, the Land Pattern Musket, known as a 'Brown Bess', was used by both the British Regulars and the Continental Army.

BEST FOOT FORWARD

Although officers wore black buckled shoes like this, lower-ranking soldiers sported cheaper alternatives that could be worn on either foot. Some even went periods without any footwear at all.

FROM REVOLUTION TO RESOLUTION

After Cornwallis' dramatic Yorktown surrender, American patriots could finally begin building the independent nation they so craved

A painting by John Trumbull depicts Lord Cornwallis surrendering at Yorktown on 19 October 1781. Although the battle marked the end of the fighting, the two sides still had to thrash out a peace deal

GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X2

"FORMER LOYALISTS TO THE CROWN WERE SOMETIMES HUNTED DOWN AND BEATEN BY SELF-STYLED PATRIOTS"

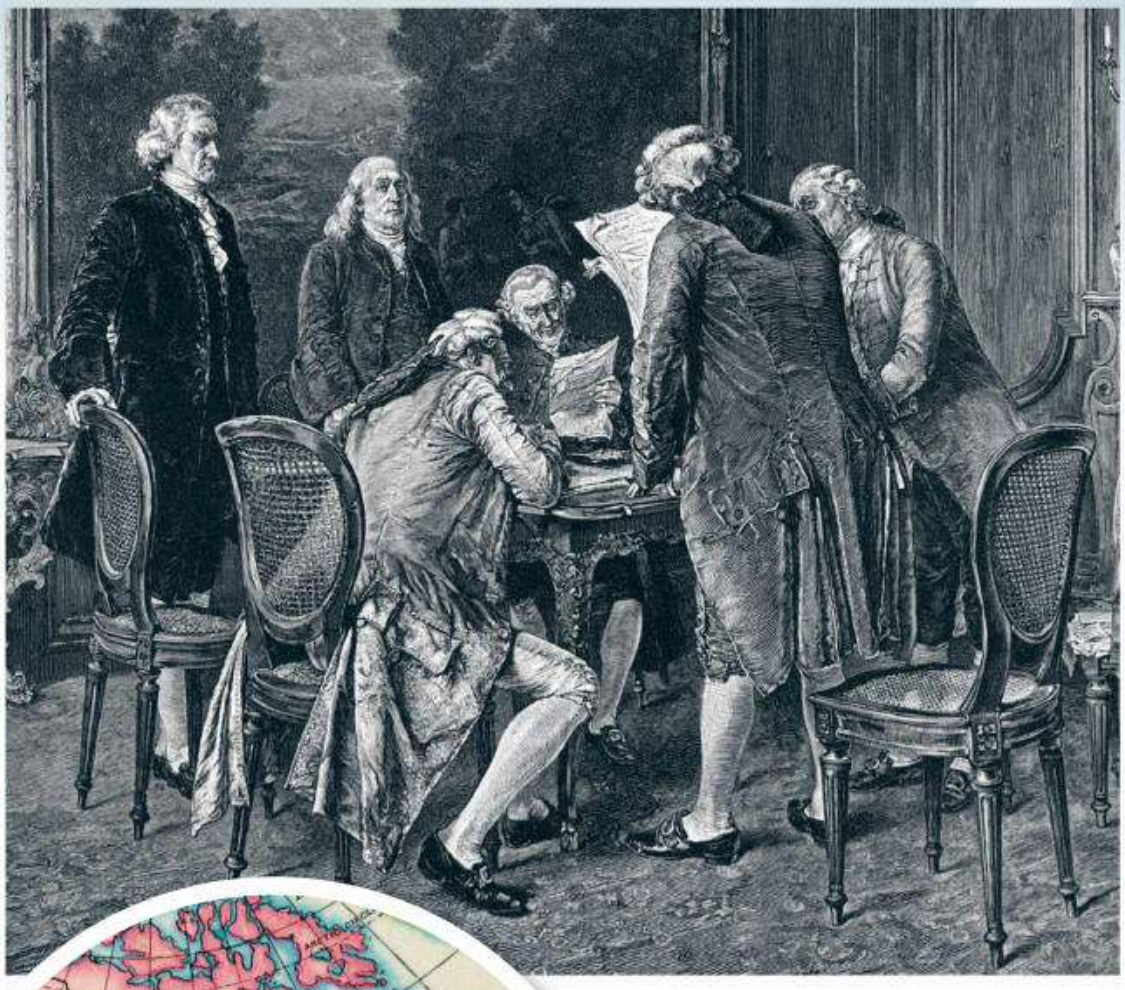
Yorktown. It's a name seared on to the brain of all lovers of US history. When a combination of American and French troops launched a siege upon the Virginia tobacco port in September 1781, they not only forced the British garrison stationed there into surrender, but they also wrote a new chapter in history.

That chapter would see the British, reeling from this sudden defeat, coming to the painful realisation that they could no longer stay in the fight against the American patriots. For those American colonists, victory in the Revolution – a conflict that had raged since 1775 was all but assured. Yorktown was, in short, a decisive major battle of a war that would witness the birth of a nation. That's why its name echoes down the ages.

Yet it was far from the end of the story. What happened in the immediate aftermath of Yorktown would have an enormous impact on American history in shaping the new nation and its relationship with the rest of the world.

For a start, the war wasn't yet technically over. There was still the small matter of the 30,000 British troops stationed in North America, occupying the seaports of New York, Charles Town and Savannah. For all the humiliation of the defeat at Yorktown, a force of that size still had the capacity to give the colonists' leading general, George Washington, considerable headaches.

Happily for the colonists, the British were now looking for a way out. "Oh God, it is all over!" a crestfallen British



ABOVE: **The signing of the preliminary Treaty of Paris in 1782, which were articles of peace** agreed early in the negotiations

LEFT: **The United States of America (*shown in green*) had generous boundaries stretching to the Mississippi River, as well as the original land of the 13 colonies**

prime minister Frederick North is said to have exclaimed upon hearing of the Yorktown surrender. By April 1782, parliament had passed a resolution calling for an end to the war, with North ousted by a vote of no confidence.

Independence now seemed increasingly inevitable. But what would that independence look like? That was largely determined by the Treaty of Paris, which saw representatives of Britain's King George III and an American delegation including founding fathers John Adams and Benjamin Franklin congregate in the French capital in 1782 and 1783 to thrash out a peace deal.

UNFRIENDLY RELATIONS

That deal, which saw the British recognise America as an independent nation with territory stretching beyond the original land of 13 colonies to the Mississippi River in the west, has been described as "exceedingly generous".

Generous or not, relations between the two nations remained strained to say the least. When the last British troops left New York in November 1783, they left behind them a union flag flying from a pole, and made that flag all the harder to remove by covering the pole in grease.

The withdrawal of British troops didn't signal an end to the turbulence buffeting the new nation. Former loyalists to the Crown were sometimes hunted down and beaten by self styled patriots, and in 1786 87, an economic crisis in Massachusetts sparked what is now known as Shays' Rebellion, when around 4,000 men widely made up of veterans of the Revolutionary War became embroiled in a military confrontation with government forces over state economic policies.

But such outbreaks of violence didn't totally dampen the optimism infusing the new nation optimism that surged in the wake of the election of America's first president in 1789. There was, however, always going to be one resounding winner. That was the man who'd masterminded the colonists' campaign against the British, including the victory at Yorktown. That man was, of course, George Washington.

WORDS: SPENCER MIZEN

HOW AMERICA MANAGED TO DOWN THE LAW

Getting each and every state to back the US Constitution was no mean feat...

The US Constitution is one of the most revered of all political documents – the backbone of the world's most powerful nation. Yet it endured the most troubled of births.

That birth occurred in the immediate aftermath of the American Revolutionary War when, having secured their independence from Great Britain, the victorious colonists realised they needed a template for governing the new nation – a document that established the principles of the government's relationship with its citizens. And so, in February 1787, delegates from all 13 colonies were summoned to Philadelphia to debate what the Constitution should look like. By September, they had reached an agreement and brought the Constitution to life in an official signing ceremony.

But there was a problem. A number of the former colonies were distinctly suspicious of the new document being waved triumphantly before them. They had all kinds of misgivings about its failure to protect basic human rights, such as freedom of speech and religion, and sought to maintain more of their own prerogative. Before long, the new nation had been split into two separate factions: those who supported the Constitution (cosmopolitans) and those who didn't (localists). America suddenly started to look divided.

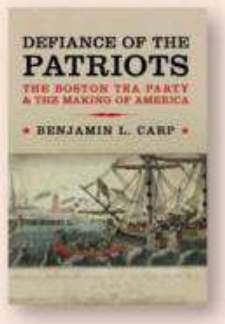
So, what to do? The answer lay in the 10 amendments (known as the Bill of Rights) added in an attempt to allay the sceptics' concerns. The states of Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, Georgia and Connecticut had all ratified the Constitution early. Now, thanks to the amendments and a vigorous PR campaign headed by such luminaries as Alexander Hamilton and James Madison, other states came round. By its own terms, the minimum number of states required to ratify the Constitution was nine, and on 21 June 1788 that number was reached.

Along with the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and its associated Bill of Rights make up America's three founding documents

GET HOOKED

If we've whetted your appetite for the American Revolutionary War, why not explore the topic further with our pick of books, films, podcasts and TV and radio programmes

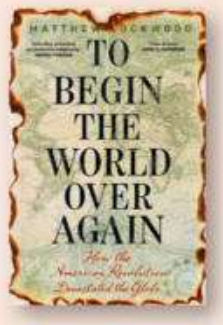
BOOKS



Defiance of the Patriots: The Boston Tea Party and the Making of America

By Prof Benjamin L Carp (Yale University Press, 2010)

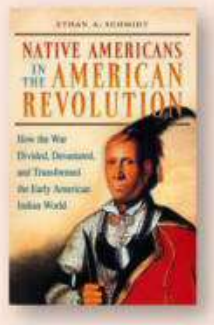
From Chinese tea-pickers to Englishmen, Native American tribes and sugar plantation slaves, Carp illuminates how a determined group shook the foundations of a mighty empire.



To Begin the World Over Again: How the American Revolution Devastated the Globe

By Prof Matthew Lockwood (Yale University Press, 2019)

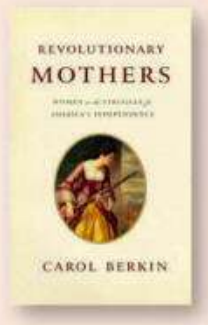
Matthew Lockwood explores the far-reaching consequences of the 18th-century fight for independence and how it set the stage for the global domination of Britain, Russia and the US.



Native Americans in the American Revolution

By Prof Ethan A Schmidt (Praeger, 2014)

Ethan Schmidt looks at the experiences of specific Native American groups during the American Revolutionary War, detailing how indigenous peoples were critical to the Revolution's outbreak, its progress and conclusion.



Revolutionary Mothers: Women in the Struggle for America's Independence

By Prof Carol Berkin (Alfred A Knopf Inc, 2005)

Carol Berkin looks at the roles played by women during the Revolutionary War – from raising funds and disseminating propaganda, to serving as nurses, spies, warriors and saboteurs.

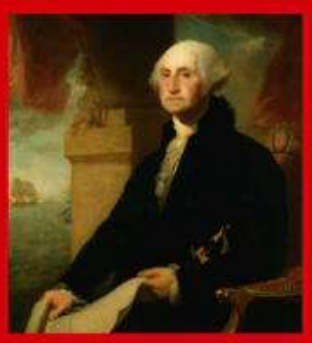
ON THE BBC

BBC RADIO 4

▶ Things We Forgot to Remember: The Real Boston Tea Party, 1773

bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01724mf

Michael Portillo examines the real events of the Boston Tea Party, and how they have been re-engineered over time.



BBC RADIO 4

▶ In Our Time: Washington and the American Revolution

bbc.co.uk/programmes/p004y28v

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss the first president of the US, George Washington, and the people and ideas that caused the American Revolution.

BBC RADIO 4

▶ The Invention of... the USA

bbc.co.uk/programmes/b08npnhd

Misha Glenny (*pictured*) explores the origins of the American Constitution and the creation of the United States.

ON THE PODCAST

▶ For podcasts, features, quizzes, interviews and more on the American Revolutionary War, visit *historyextra.com/american-revolutionary-war*

▶ George III: the tyrant who lost America?

Andrew Roberts discusses his recent biography of King George III and takes on some of the myths that have surrounded the monarch. Listen at *bit.ly/3JL2IUO*

▶ Brexit and American independence

In an interview recorded in 2018, Tom Cutterham describes how Brexit negotiations compare with America's departure from the British empire. Listen at *bit.ly/3qHvBK4*

▶ The American Revolutionary War: everything you wanted to know

Benjamin Carp tackles listener questions on the conflict that saw colonists in North America declare independence from the British. Listen at *bit.ly/3DfZ0QB*

WATCH

American History's Biggest Fibs with Lucy Worsley

(BBC Four, now streaming on Apple TV)

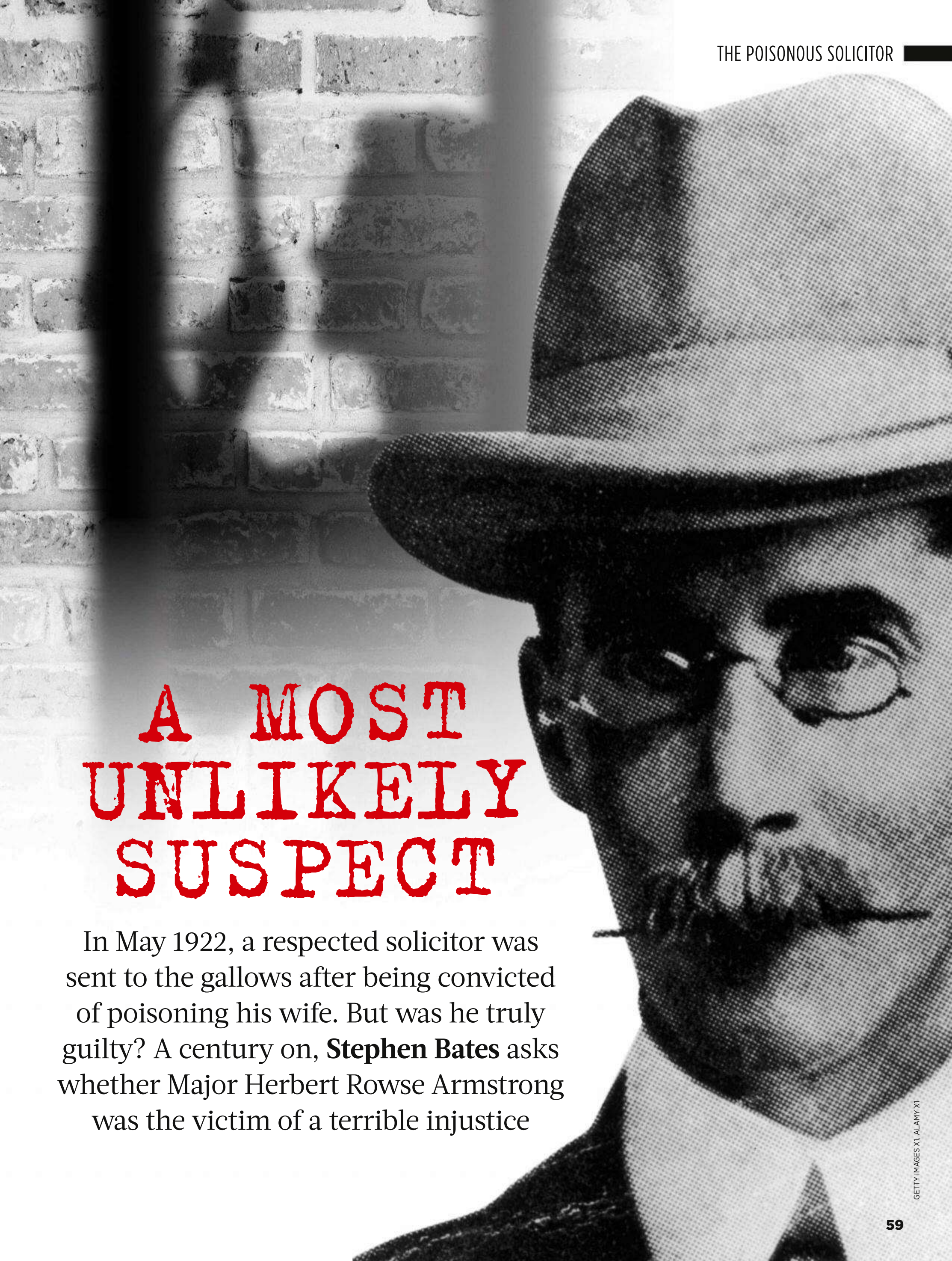
Episode one of Lucy Worsley's 2019 series sees her explore the myths and half-truths surrounding the Revolution.

Hamilton

(now streaming on Disney+)

This live stage recording of Lin-Manuel Miranda's celebrated Broadway musical brings the story of one of America's founding fathers, Alexander Hamilton, to life in colourful detail.

GETTY IMAGES X4, ALAMY X1, BBC X1



A MOST UNLIKELY SUSPECT

In May 1922, a respected solicitor was sent to the gallows after being convicted of poisoning his wife. But was he truly guilty? A century on, **Stephen Bates** asks whether Major Herbert Rowse Armstrong was the victim of a terrible injustice

GETTY IMAGES X1, ALAMY X1

One hundred years ago this May, a country solicitor from the little town of Hay on Wye, nestled on the border between England and Wales, was in prison awaiting execution for murdering his wife. Major Herbert Rowse Armstrong – he always insisted on the rank – had been convicted at a sensational 10 day trial of killing his wife Katharine 15 months earlier. It was said he had dosed her with arsenic that he had bought legally in the local chemist's shop, allegedly to kill the dandelions on the couple's lawn.

The case of Major Armstrong was so extraordinary that it seized not only the imagination of newspaper readers in Britain, but across North America and the rest of the English speaking world. The twists and turns in the tale also inspired a new breed of crime novelists. It was, the *Charlotte Observer* in far away North Carolina announced, citing the notorious medieval Italian dynasty: "The greatest poison drama of the century… All England is thrilled by the trial of a modern Borgia."

The story had everything, as it apparently involved far more than a private domestic tragedy, taking in petty professional rivalries and gossip; rumours that gave rise to astonishing speculation about a man who had been a pillar of the community. There were even tales of a poisoned box of chocolates and a deadly scone handed over at a tea party, allegedly with the words: "'Scuse fingers."

A RESPECTABLE FIGURE

Herbert Armstrong was a short, slight, dapper man, only eight stone in weight. He had strikingly blue eyes behind his gold rimmed pince nez spectacles and fashionably waxed the ends of his moustache. He was the picture of respectability, prominent at both the parish church and Freemasons' lodge, and served as clerk to the justices at three local magistrates' courts. He had been born into a middle class family in Plymouth in 1869 and, after his father died, had been educated at Cambridge with financial support from two maiden aunts. He qualified as a solicitor in Liverpool before moving south, first to Devon, and then to take up a partnership at a legal firm in Hay.

Armstrong had married his wife Katharine in 1907. She had been a school mistress and the couple had three young children. "I never knew a happier couple," wrote their former vicar. Herbert was always attentive to his wife, who – according to local gossip – was nervy, highly strung and bossy, and once interrupted a tennis match in which her husband was playing with the command that he must come along because it was his bath night.

The family lived in a large house in the hamlet of Cusop, just outside Hay, and by 1914 Herbert had taken over the solicitor's firm. He had served in the Territorial Army for 20 years, so when World War I broke out he quickly volunteered, though he spent the conflict behind a desk, mostly in England.

SICKNESS AND SUSPICION

When the war ended, Armstrong returned to Hay and picked up where he had left off, though economic conditions made the job difficult. Katharine, meanwhile, seems to have been badly unbalanced by the war. She developed neuritis in her hands, which prevented her from playing the piano, and started suffering from delusions, convinced she was a bad wife and mother and had been cheating the local tradesmen. Eventually, in the summer of 1920, her husband – with the consent of her sister and the local doctor, Tom Hincks – agreed that she should be committed to the Barnwood Asylum in Gloucester.

Katharine spent six months in the hospital before being released in January 1921, but her condition rapidly deteriorated. On one occasion, she apparently asked the family's housekeeper whether she would kill herself if she fell out of an upper floor window. Within a few weeks, the former school mistress was desperately sick and unable to move, and a month after coming home, she died. At the time it was believed that it had been a natural death, and Armstrong's friend Hincks signed the certificate with a diagnosis of "gastritis, heart disease and inflammation of the kidneys".

Life returned to normal, but Major Armstrong had growing difficulties with a young solicitor named Oswald Martin, who had moved to a rival firm after the war. Martin – who was married to Connie, the daughter of local chemist Fred Davies – was a pushy figure who fell out with Armstrong over the sale of a local estate. Martin represented tenant farmers who wanted to buy their farms, while Armstrong handled the sale for the owner. Property prices had fallen sharply and the tenants wanted to renegotiate, but the owner was in financial difficulties – he owed money to Armstrong that he could not repay without the sale. This left the major in debt, and the sale grew acrimonious.

In October 1921, Armstrong invited Martin to tea at his home, during which he handed him a scone, allegedly saying "'scuse fingers". After he went home and had his supper, Martin fell excruciatingly sick, though he recovered in a few days. He and his wife then remembered that they had received an anonymous gift of a box of ▶

ABOVE: **St Mary's Church in Cusop, where Katharine Armstrong was buried – and subsequently exhumed – following her sudden demise in 1921**

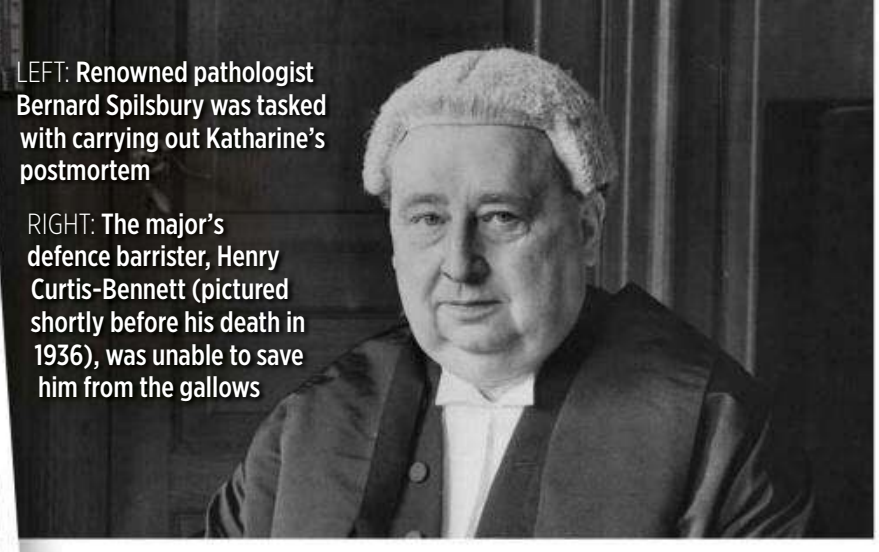
BELOW: **The former school mistress had spent six months at Barnwood Asylum in Gloucester, but the stay did very little to improve her mental health**

"After he went home and had his supper, Martin fell excruciatingly sick – though he recovered in a few days"

Rival solicitor Oswald Martin, pictured here with his wife Connie, claimed that Armstrong had tried to kill him with a poisoned scone

GETTY IMAGES X1, ALAMY X3

Herbert Rowse Armstrong pictured with Katharine on their wedding day in 1907. Their vicar would later say that he "never knew a happier couple"



LEFT: **Renowned pathologist Bernard Spilsbury was tasked with carrying out Katharine's postmortem**

RIGHT: **The major's defence barrister, Henry Curtis-Bennett (pictured shortly before his death in 1936), was unable to save him from the gallows**

Dr Thomas Hincks, who had signed Katharine's original death certificate, is seen arriving at Hay Magistrates' Court for committal proceedings

Local police try to maintain order as a vehicle carrying Armstrong leaves Hay Magistrates' Court

chocolates through the post a few weeks earlier and that after tasting one, his visiting sister in law had also fallen sick. It was then that Connie's chemist father, Fred, recalled selling large quantities of arsenic to Armstrong to use as weedkiller on his dandelions. The sale of poisons was not strictly regulated then, and purchasers only had to sign a register when they bought some.

Fred's suggestion alarmed his son in law, and triggered a change of mind in Dr Hincks, who had treated Martin only for gastroenteritis. He started to wonder whether Katharine Armstrong had been poisoned too, and sent his concerns to the Home Office, which tested a specimen of Martin's urine. It had a small trace of arsenic in it, but not enough to kill him. Two detectives from Scotland Yard were sent to Hay to carry out an undercover investigation.

THE NET CLOSES IN

Over the coming weeks, Oswald became terrified of any contact with the major, particularly when he was repeatedly invited across the road from his office to Armstrong's for afternoon tea. He thought the major would try and poison him again, though Armstrong's friends thought it was more likely that the major was just lonely and wanted to discuss masonic affairs.

"The jury took a mere 48 minutes to convict the diminutive solicitor – and that included a stop for tea"

The arsenic finding and rumours that others might have been poisoned too led the Home Office and Director of Public Prosecutions to act, and Armstrong was confronted by police in his office while doing paperwork on New Year's Eve. During their search, a little packet of arsenic was found: Armstrong had been wearing his gardening clothes and it had been in his pocket. Instead of an afternoon's gardening, the major was arrested. He did not realise it at the time, but he would never see his home or his children ever again.

Within days, Katharine's body was exhumed from the local churchyard and a post mortem was carried out by Bernard Spilsbury, the leading pathologist of the day. When tested, her organs were found to contain a lethal amount of arsenic.

CLOSE EXAMINATION

Many local people were astonished at what had happened Armstrong had represented many of them and was well liked, whereas the young newcomer, Martin, was not. Now the major found himself arraigned in his own court, charged with the murder of his wife and the attempted murder of his rival. He protested his innocence.

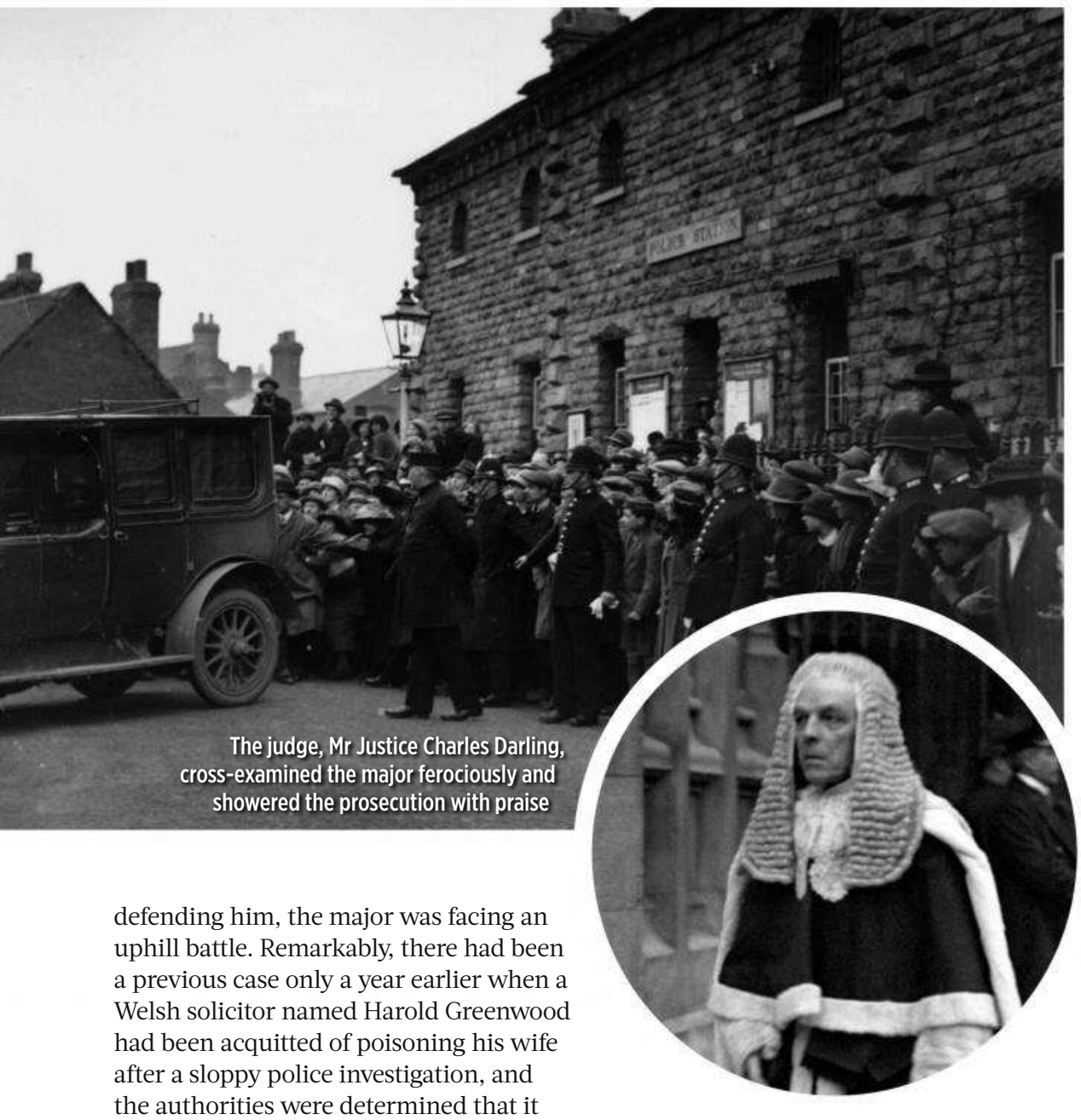
At the time of Katharine's death, poisons such as arsenic were easily available to buy from local chemists

Armstrong's trial took place at Hereford Assizes in April 1922 and, although the evidence against him was circumstantial and he had one of the most eminent barristers in the country, Sir Henry Curtis-Bennett,

GETTY IMAGES X8, ALAMY X1

ABOVE: **The couple's servants and nurses wait in the snow to give evidence on the first day of the trial**

LEFT: **A large crowd of onlookers assembles outside the Hereford Assizes, eager for updates**



The judge, Mr Justice Charles Darling, cross-examined the major ferociously and showered the prosecution with praise

defending him, the major was facing an uphill battle. Remarkably, there had been a previous case only a year earlier when a Welsh solicitor named Harold Greenwood had been acquitted of poisoning his wife after a sloppy police investigation, and the authorities were determined that it should not happen again.

The judge, Mr Justice Charles Darling, continually ruled against the defence (most crucially in allowing evidence of Martin's illness to be heard) and he cross-examined Armstrong ferociously. In his summing up for the jury, the judge dismissed the arguments put forward by Curtis-Bennett and praised Spilsbury and the other witnesses for the prosecution. It was little wonder that the jury took a mere 48 minutes to convict the diminutive solicitor – and that included a stop for tea.

Armstrong's appeal failed and he was hanged at Gloucester Prison on 31 May 1922, exactly five months after his arrest. The hangman claimed that as he pulled the lever to open the trapdoor beneath the major's feet, he heard him whisper: "I'm coming, Kate."

The case, with its irresistible twists and turns, was reported in huge (and sometimes prejudicial) detail by the popular press tens of thousands of words a day, some of them by the famous author Edgar Wallace and the overwhelming assumption was that Armstrong was guilty.

But was he really? There were considerable holes in the prosecution case and several questions remained. Could Katharine have poisoned herself in despair? Was Martin only suffering from a tummy ache? Who sent the anonymous chocolates? Why would Armstrong kill the wife to whom he seemed devoted? Tragically, the outcome left three small children orphaned and taken into foster care. It is said that the youngest only found out what had happened to her parents on a school visit to Madame Tussauds, when she came face to face with her beloved father in the Chamber of Horrors.

ART IMITATING LIFE

The story of Katharine Armstrong's demise inspired the greatest authors of the age…

George Orwell wrote in a 1946 essay: "What would be… the 'perfect' murder? The murderer should be a little man of the professional class living an intensely respectable life… he should plan it all with the utmost cunning and only slip up over some tiny, unforeseeable detail. The means chosen should of course be poison."

He made it clear he was thinking of Major Armstrong, and indeed the case coincided with the rise of crime novelists such as Agatha Christie and Dorothy Sayers, both of whom incorporated elements of the story in some of their plots.

Their stories, like those of several other contemporary bestselling writers, involved amateur sleuths solving cunning and complex murders among the middle classes through ingenuity, almost like a game. The books were very popular in the 1920s – a thousand new titles a year were being published by the end of the decade – and the real-life Armstrong case fit the genre perfectly: a true crime just as vivid as fiction.

ABOVE: **George Orwell alluded to Armstrong in a 1946 essay about carrying out the 'perfect' murder**

RIGHT: **Agatha Christie would later incorporate elements of the case into some of her bestselling whodunnits**

STEPHEN BATES is a former senior correspondent for *The Guardian*. His new book about Major Herbert Rowse Armstrong, *The Poisonous Solicitor*, has just been published by Icon Books

GET HOOKED

LISTEN

Stephen Bates will discuss the story of Major Herbert Rowse Armstrong in an upcoming episode of the HistoryExtra podcast. To listen, visit *historyextra.com/podcast*

WHAT GREAT PAINTINGS SAY

A highly unusual painting sheds new light on the experiences of people of colour in 18th-century England

Dido Elizabeth Belle and Lady Elizabeth Murray

by David Martin, c1779

Hanging in the Ambassador's Room at Scone Palace in Perth, Scotland, is one of the most extraordinary works of British portraiture, and one whose story has only recently been rediscovered. It is the only known portrait of Dido Belle, the illegitimate daughter of Sir John Lindsay, an officer in the Royal Navy, and Maria Belle, an enslaved African woman whom Sir John had liberated from a Spanish slave ship.

What is significant, though, is that Dido a mixed race woman living in London near the peak of the transatlantic slave trade is portrayed as an equal to the painting's white sitter her cousin, Lady Elizabeth Murray. It is, in short, one of the earliest positive portrayals of a black person in British art.

A POWERFUL INFLUENCE

"For centuries, it was assumed that Lady Elizabeth had been painted with her servant or slave," says William Murray, Viscount Stormont, whose family have lived at Scone for more than 400 years. "But in the 1980s, the identity of the portrait's mixed race sitter was rediscovered, and the incredible story of Dido Belle came to light."

Dido is thought to have been brought to England at the age of about five, and was placed under the guardianship of her father's uncle, William Murray, 1st Earl of Mansfield. Raised as an aristocratic lady alongside her cousin, Dido was taught to read, write, play music, dance and entertain guests. But her presence and status as a member of the family would certainly have raised eyebrows in 18th century society.

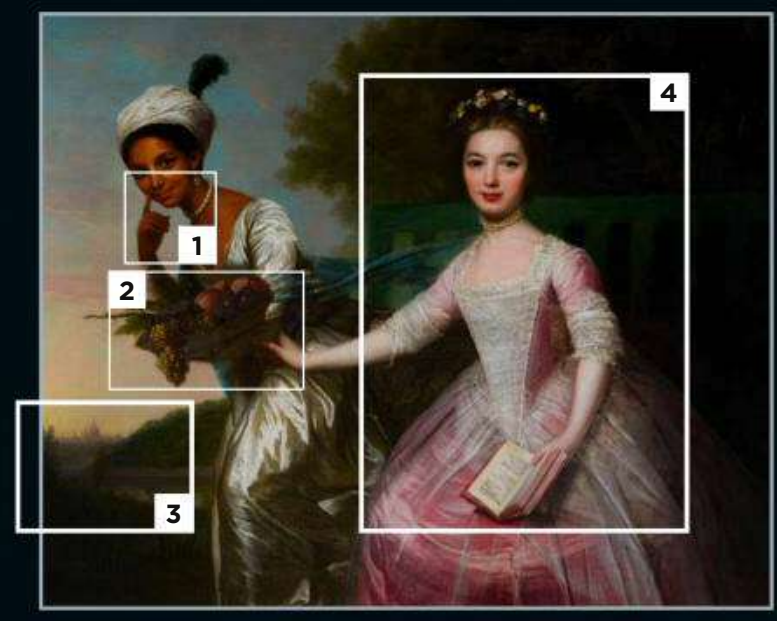
"Dido was much loved by the family and enjoyed a close relationship with the Earl, who probably commissioned this double portrait," says Stormont. "But their relationship may have had consequences that no one could have predicted.

"As Lord Chief Justice, Murray presided over several high profile cases, including the 1772 case of Somerset v Stewart, which saw a slave owner try to have his escaped slave forcibly removed to the West Indies. In a landmark ruling that is widely considered the beginning of the end of slavery in Britain, Murray found in favour of the enslaved man, concluding that 'the state of slavery... [is] so odious that nothing can be suffered to support it'. Nine years later he would rule against the owners of the *Zong* slave ship, who tried to claim insurance on the enslaved people they had callously thrown overboard. Did Murray's fondness for Dido influence his decision? In my opinion, it's highly likely."

When Murray died in 1793, he officially granted Dido her freedom and left her £500 and an annual allowance of £100. Nine months later she married John Davinier, a gentleman's steward, and went on to have three children. She died in 1804, aged just 43, but her bold gaze and dimpled smile remain frozen in time a testament to her remarkable life and legacy.

WORDS: CHARLOTTE HODGMAN

ALAMY



1. HAND GESTURE

Dido's enigmatic hand gesture has been interpreted in several ways – from a conscious decision to emphasise her skin colour, to simply a fashionable portrait pose of the day.

2. BOWL OF FRUIT

Much has been made of the women's contrasting props, with some arguing that the bowl of fruit represents Dido's link to the 'exotic' New World, along with her turban and ostrich feather.

3. BACKGROUND

The women have been depicted in the garden of Kenwood House in London, where they resided. Behind them is what is now Hampstead Heath, with St Paul's Cathedral visible on the skyline.

4. POSE

The two women and their contrasting poses, clothing and props are said by some to represent 'old' England and the exotic worlds of the empire. Lady Elizabeth Murray is presented in a formal, face-on pose, while Dido's pose is more fluid, as if she is rushing past. Their outfits, too, are also contrasting: Lady Elizabeth's formal, old-style gown and book are at odds with Dido's fashionable flowing silks and bowl of exotic fruits. Is Lady Elizabeth's outstretched hand an attempt to prevent her companion from leaving, or is she a visual metaphor for the old world of the past reaching out to the New World?

GET HOOKED

VISIT

The portrait of Dido Elizabeth Belle and Lady Elizabeth Murray is on show at Scone Palace, Perth. Visit the palace's website for more information on the painting, and how to visit: *scone-palace.co.uk*

Kenwood House in north London, where Dido spent much of her life, is under the care of English Heritage. Find out how to visit at *english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/kenwood*

CONVAIRCAR, 1940s

◀ Despite looking like the perfect way to avoid the rush-hour commute, designer Henry Dreyfuss' four-seater flying automobile (ConvAirCar) never really took off. The vehicle's fibreglass body and ability to convert from plane to car with the removal of simple pins added to its futuristic feel, but a failed test flight in 1947 gave investors cold feet, and the design never went into production.

OBSOLETE OBJECTS

Technological advances and scientific discoveries have consigned many inventions of yesteryear to the dustbin of history. A new book of now-defunct objects and ideas takes a trip down memory lane to explore futures that never were. We bring you 10 examples...

WORDS: CHARLOTTE HODGMAN

COOPER HEWITT, SMITHSONIAN DESIGN MUSEUM, NEW YORK

UV-RADIATED BEACH, 1920/30s

▲ Set up along the Belgian coast in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, 'children's colonies' aimed to prevent tuberculosis (TB) in city children through a range of controlled 'strengthening' activities. Here, a group of children play in a sandpit lit by UV lamps on the ceiling in order to simulate a natural beach setting. In 1943, the discovery of streptomycin, the first antibiotic to be effective against TB, made such preventative cures obsolete.

PAPER DRESS, 1960s

▶ Between 1966 and 1970, the US and UK enjoyed a 'paper caper' as dresses made from high-performance papers became popular fashion choices. This op art paper dress was created by the Scott Paper Company in 1966 – the firm sold 500,000 of them in eight months. Their appeal lay in their bold designs and cheapness. As Scott's ad campaign boasted, "Won't last forever... who cares?"

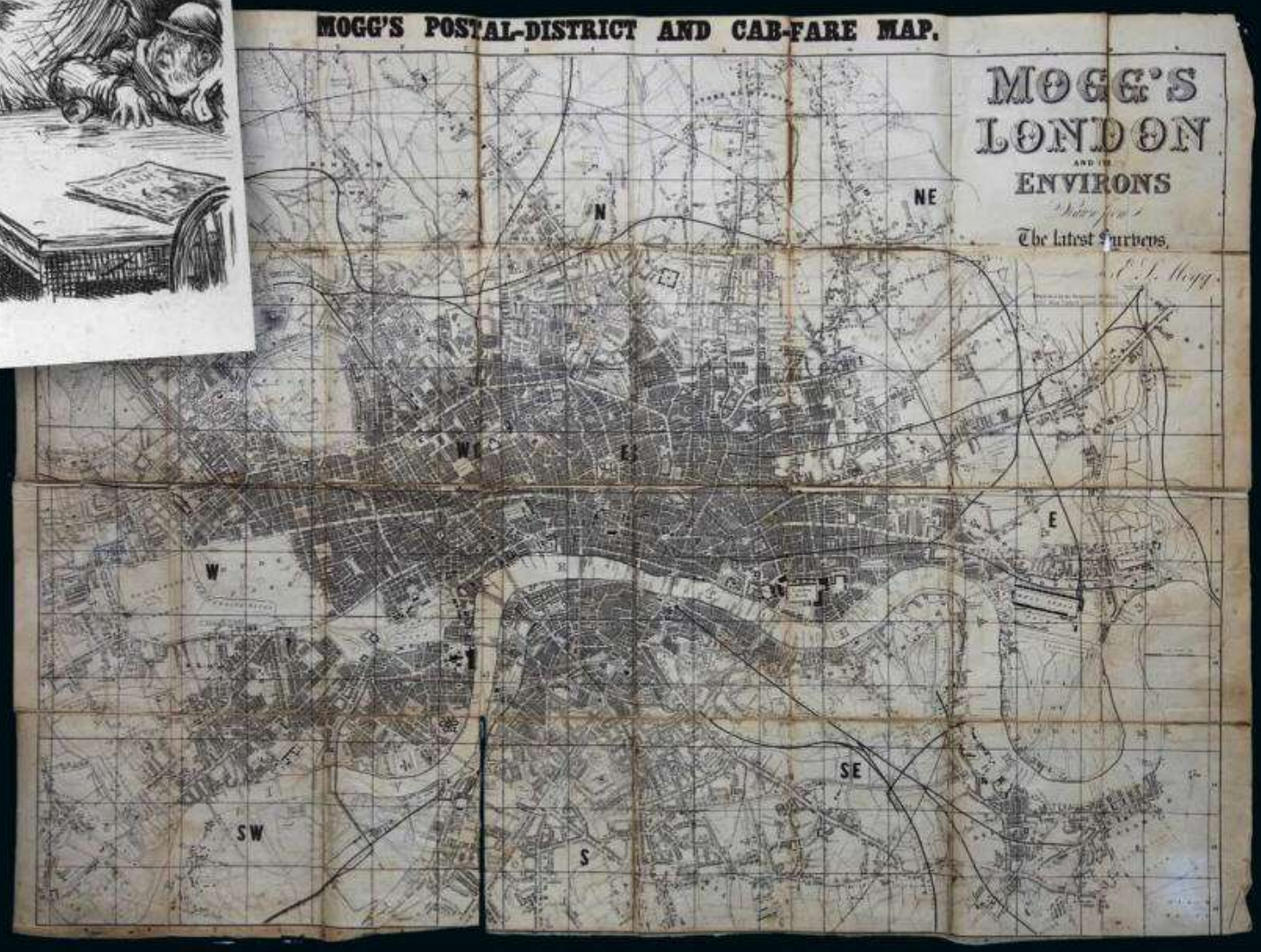
SKIRT GRIP, mid-19th/early 20th century

▶ Although it may look like a torture device, this handy gadget would have once been worn by many a fashionable lady. In an age of filthy streets, the skirt grip, usually hung from the waistband by means of a cord, gently raised the wearer's skirt hems between padded grips, avoiding the need for her to touch the fabrics with dirty gloves.

COLLECTION OF MARC CONSTANDT, MIDDELKERKE, VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM, LONDON, COLLECTION OF AMY DE LA HAYE

CAB-FARE MAP, mid-19th century

▶ Before the existence of taximeters to calculate the cost of journeys, cabbies had to consult books of fares to work out how much was owed – or at least they did in principle. To prevent customers from being fleeced, the London mapmakers William and Edward Mogg came up with a series of cab-fare maps with grid squares at every half mile, and marking the four-mile radius from Charing Cross that signified the increase from a sixpence to a shilling per mile.



NOTGELD, 1920s

▲ In the aftermath of World War I, hyperinflation caused huge hardships in Germany. As coins grew scarce, municipalities began to print emergency money or *Notgeld*, which had expiration dates to prevent hoarding. To denote the area in which they could be used, the notes featured local landmarks, although as they became collectible items in their own right, some *Notgeld* also began to redesign their environs, such as this futuristic depiction of 'New Magdeburg'.

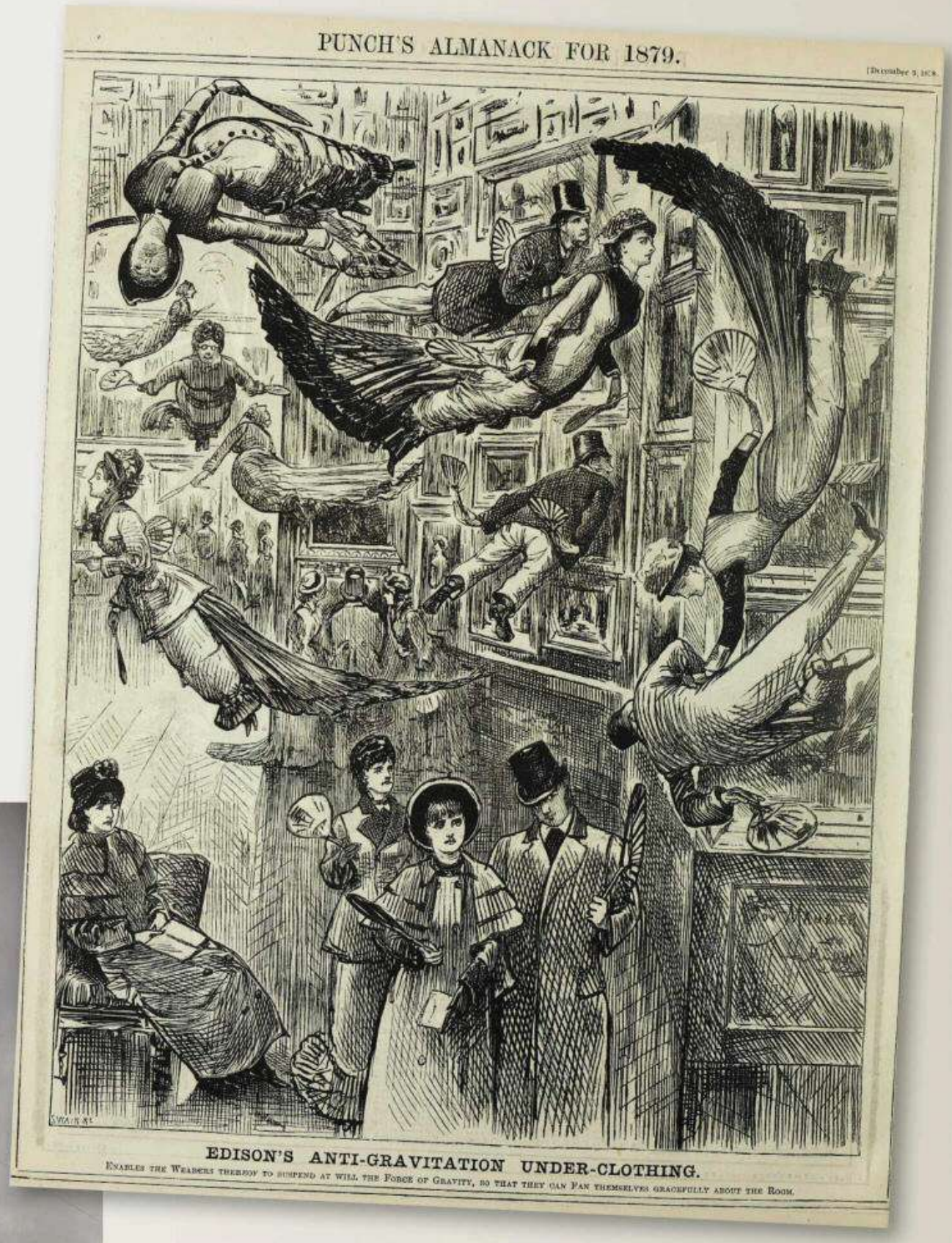
ARSENIC WALLPAPER, 19th century

▶ The 19th-century invention of a machine that could produce long strips of wallpaper, combined with the repealing of the paper tax, launched a home decorating boom. One colour much in demand was a vivid green developed by chemist Carl Wilhelm Scheele in 1778, and which utilised copper arsenide. It took many deaths before the dangers of using arsenical pigments were fully accepted.

LONDON METROPOLITAN ARCHIVES, ROBARTS LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, COLLECTION OF TOM WILKINSON, VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM, LONDON

ANTI-GRAVITATION UNDER-CLOTHING, 19th century

▶ Although better known for inventions such as the lightbulb, Thomas Edison's name was also linked to this unusual way to view paintings that hung at the top of the crowded walls of the Royal Academy's annual exhibition. The idea of donning anti-gravity underwear and floating gracefully upwards was a joke, of course, printed by *Punch* in December 1878.

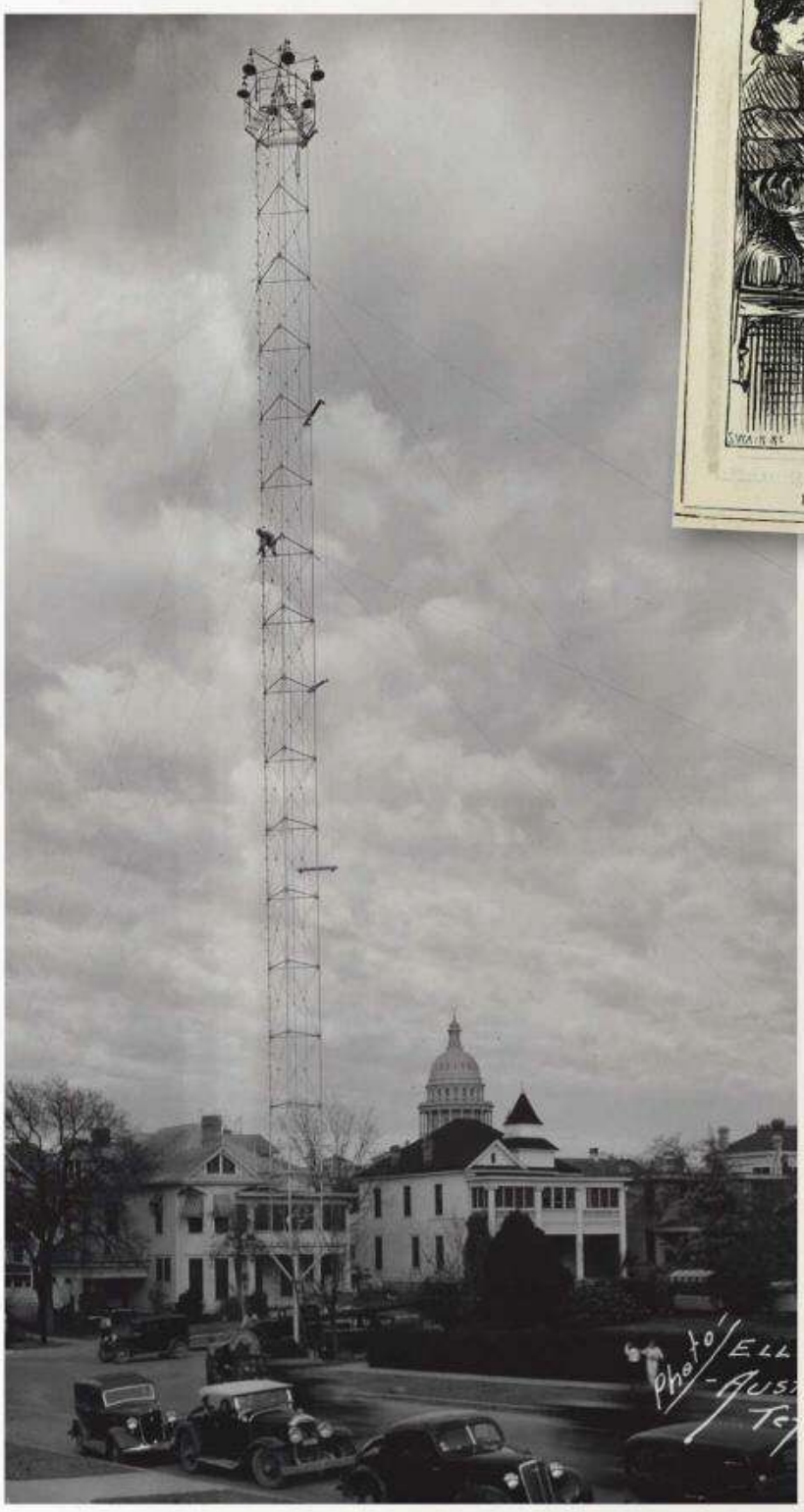

PUNCH'S ALMANACK FOR 1879.

EDISON'S ANTI-GRAVITATION UNDER-CLOTHING.

ENABLES THE WEARERS THEREOF TO SUSPEND AT WILL THE FORCE OF GRAVITY, SO THAT THEY CAN FAN THEMSELVES GRACEFULLY ABOUT THE ROOM.

MOON TOWERS, late 19th century

▼ 'Artificial moons', or Moon towers, were among the first electric street lights; erected in the 1870s, they could produce a glow of up to 6,000 candles. Powered by a steam-driven generator, the intense and harsh brightness of the arc lamps meant they needed to be mounted high above the ground, on towers that could reach upwards of 75 metres (250ft).



CHATELAINE, medieval period onwards

◀ A precursor to the keyring, chatelaines enabled women to attach items such as watches and keys to long metal chains. Hung from the waist, they became fashion statements, with some even featuring calendars, such as this example from the late 18th century. The chatelaine's fate was sealed, however, by the rising use of purses and handbags.

GET HOOKED

READ

Extinct: A Compendium of Obsolete Objects, edited by Barbara Penner, Adrian Forty, Olivia Horsfall Turner and Miranda Critchley (Reaktion Books, 2021)

UNIVERSITÄTSBIBLIOTHEK HEIDELBERG (CC BY-SA 4.0), COURTESY AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER, AUSTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY, TX, THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, NEW YORK

WHAT IF...

EMPRESS MATILDA HAD DEFEATED KING STEPHEN?

In the 1130s, England descended into civil war as two rival cousins vied for the throne. **Spencer Mizen** asks historian **Matt Lewis** whether the struggle – known as the Anarchy – could have unfolded differently

King Henry I was, in many historians' estimation, an accomplished ruler. He cemented his father, William I's, conquest of the kingdom of England, successfully fought off a series of rebellions across the Channel in Normandy, and burnished England's reputation among the kingdoms of Europe.

Yet, for all his undoubted qualities, Henry made a complete mess of the succession to his throne. And so, when the ageing king died in 1135, England was pitched into civil war.

That conflict is now better known as the Anarchy, a word that conjures images of turbulence and chaos. And so it proved, as the two contenders for Henry's crown – his daughter and nominated heir, Matilda; and Stephen of Blois, a grandson of William the Conqueror – embarked on a bitter battle for power.

In a conflict of seemingly endless twists and turns, it was Stephen who struck first, having himself crowned a matter of weeks after Henry's death. Yet, by 1141, Matilda had turned the tables on her enemy completely. Having defeated Stephen at the battle of Lincoln and thrown him into prison, she entered London in triumph, seemingly on the brink of securing the throne. Yet Londoners wouldn't accept her, and after being freed from his incarceration, Stephen was soon back in the ascendant.

Even then the war rumbled on, as Matilda's supporters – her son Henry to the fore – strained every sinew to unseat Stephen. It was only in 1154, on Stephen's death and Henry's accession as Henry II, that England's long nightmare came to an end.

But what if Matilda hadn't allowed victory to slip through her grasp in 1141? What if she had placed the crown on her head, sat on the throne – and had herself declared England's first queen regnant?

DID YOU KNOW?

THE TWO MATILDAS

Empress Matilda was not the only woman bearing that name to play a vital role during the Anarchy. King Stephen's wife, Matilda of Boulogne, supported her husband by raising an army and marching on London after his imprisonment in 1141.

UNCHANGED SUCCESSION

Superficially, it wouldn't have been very different at all. That's the verdict of Matt Lewis, medieval historian and author of *Stephen and Matilda's Civil War* (Pen & Sword, 2019). "The Anarchy ended with Henry II in possession of the English throne – and it's hard to imagine a scenario in which a victorious Matilda wouldn't have passed the crown to her son on her death. So in that respect, nothing changed," he says. "What's more, as the son of Geoffrey V, Count of Anjou with all the territories that his inheritance brought – Henry would have presided over a sizeable empire that encompassed England, Maine, Anjou and Normandy, whether Matilda secured a rapid victory in the civil war or not."

So far, so similar. Yet scratch beneath the surface, says Lewis, and perhaps Henry's reign would have been different – and far less successful – had Matilda secured a quick victory. After all, the Henry who became king in 1154 was very much the product of his youth – and that was a youth shaped by crisis and war.

"If there's one thing you can say about Henry II it's that he was a superb warrior – whether going on the attack, fighting off rebellions or defending the borders of his empire," explains Lewis. "It's hard not to conclude that some of those skills were forged during the Anarchy – a conflict that saw him embroiled in intense fighting in both England and Normandy."

So much for Henry. But what about the woman who would have passed him the crown had she defeated Stephen? Would Matilda have made an accomplished ruler? "There's every reason to suspect

IN CONTEXT

When Prince William Adelin drowned in the English Channel in 1120, Henry I lost his only legitimate son and heir. Fifteen years later, when the king breathed his last, this hole in England's line of succession came home to roost. Henry's daughter Matilda and her cousin Stephen of Blois both staked their claim to the throne, plunging the nation into the Anarchy.

This long civil war is remembered as one of the darkest periods of England's Middle Ages – famously described by the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle as one in which "Christ and his saints slept". The reality may not have been quite as bleak as that but there's little doubt that this was a period of significant turmoil, with Matilda's forces dominating southwest England, King David of Scotland occupying the north of England, Stephen presiding over the rest, and a series of bloody flashpoints where their territories met.

In the end, a combination of misogyny and tactical missteps scuppered Matilda's bid to oust Stephen from the throne, but in 1153 her son Henry (later Henry II) secured an agreement that he would inherit the throne upon Stephen's death. Matilda would never become England's first queen regnant but, in the figure of Henry, she had achieved a victory of sorts.

The death of Henry I's heir during the *White Ship* disaster of 1120 triggered a succession crisis

GETTY IMAGES X1, ALAMY X2

that the answer to that question is 'yes'," says Lewis.

As a young woman, Matilda spent a lot of time in what is now Germany, and was married to the Holy Roman Emperor Henry V until his death. Henry saw her very much as someone who would work alongside him "she wasn't there to sit in the corner and sew," says Lewis. She had a gold plated education, spoke numerous languages and judging by the efficiency with which she governed Normandy on behalf of her son Henry when he was king of England was an astute political operator.

Yet, according to Lewis, there's a rather large elephant in the room when discussing the prospect of Matilda's reign and that's her gender.

"As queen regnant, Matilda would have faced significant misogyny," he says. "Her victory in 1141 might have brought an end to the succession crisis, but the fighting may well have rumbled on much of it driven by the fact that lots of Englishmen *hated* the prospect of being ruled by a woman.

"Her accession would have thrown up so many questions. How does a queen lead an army on to the battlefield? How does she dispense justice? What do you call her husband, if he's not a king? These are all questions that would have needed to be answered in a country that had never before experienced female rule and, to a large extent, didn't want it."

AN ALTERNATE PATH

And the answers, says Lewis, would have had ramifications stretching far beyond the 12th century. "If Matilda had overcome the doubters and proven that a woman could be a capable ruler, then England's history may have taken an alternate path. It may even have changed the course of the Wars of the Roses, which were, to a large extent, driven by the nation's aversion to giving Margaret of Anjou regency powers when her husband, Henry VI, was incapacitated."

So would another long and bloody civil war three centuries later have been avoided had Matilda's reign proven a success? We will never know. But it's an intriguing possibility.

LEFT: **A 20th-century depiction of Matilda. Despite the regalia shown here, she never gained the English crown**

BELOW: **King Stephen's defeat at Lincoln in 1141 resulted in his imprisonment – but he was soon back in power**

"IF SHE HAD OVERCOME THE DOUBTERS AND PROVEN THAT A WOMAN COULD BE A CAPABLE RULER, ENGLAND'S HISTORY MAY HAVE TAKEN AN ALTERNATE PATH"

LISTEN

BBC RADIO 4 Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss Stephen, Matilda and the Anarchy on an episode of *In Our Time*: *bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01nl963*

NEXT MONTH

What if... Cromwell's son hadn't succeeded him?

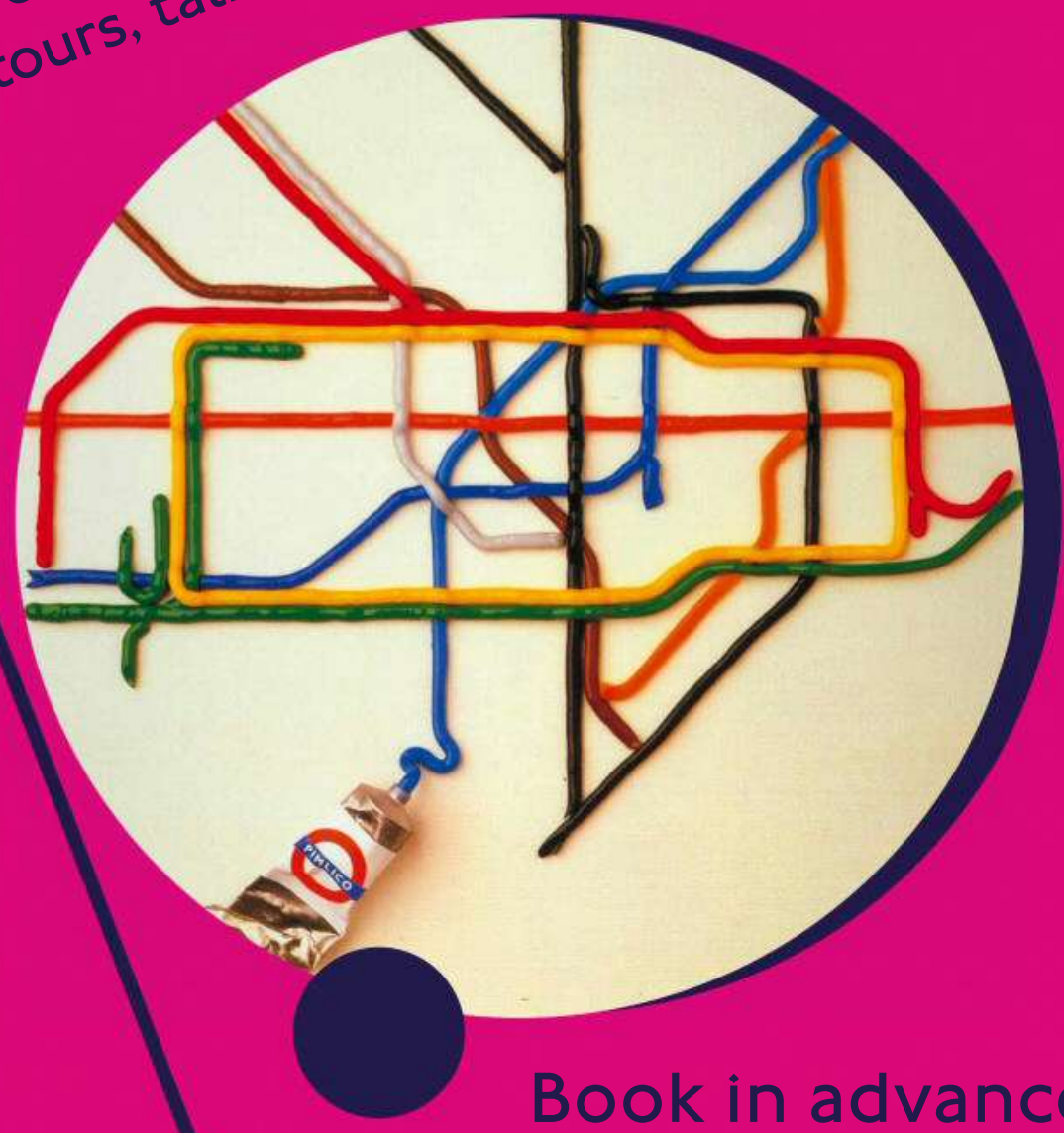
london transport museum

DEPOT OPEN DAYS

The Art of the Poster

Thursday 21 – Sunday 24 April 2022
London Transport Museum's Depot, Acton Town

Discover 100 years of poster design
with tours, talks and creative workshops



Book in advance
ltmuseum.co.uk

MAYOR OF LONDON

Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

13,490

The number of cases tried by the 'Hanging Judge' of the Old West, Isaac Charles Parker, during his 21-year career. He sentenced 160 of those charged to death.

THE END IS NIGH
A medieval manuscript shows a couple riddled with buboes – painful swellings caused by the Black Death. Behind them, a man scatters herbs in a bid to clear the 'bad air'

How did people try to 'cure' the Black Death?

SHORT ANSWER On top of the crushed emeralds and poultry accessories were some keepers, like social distancing

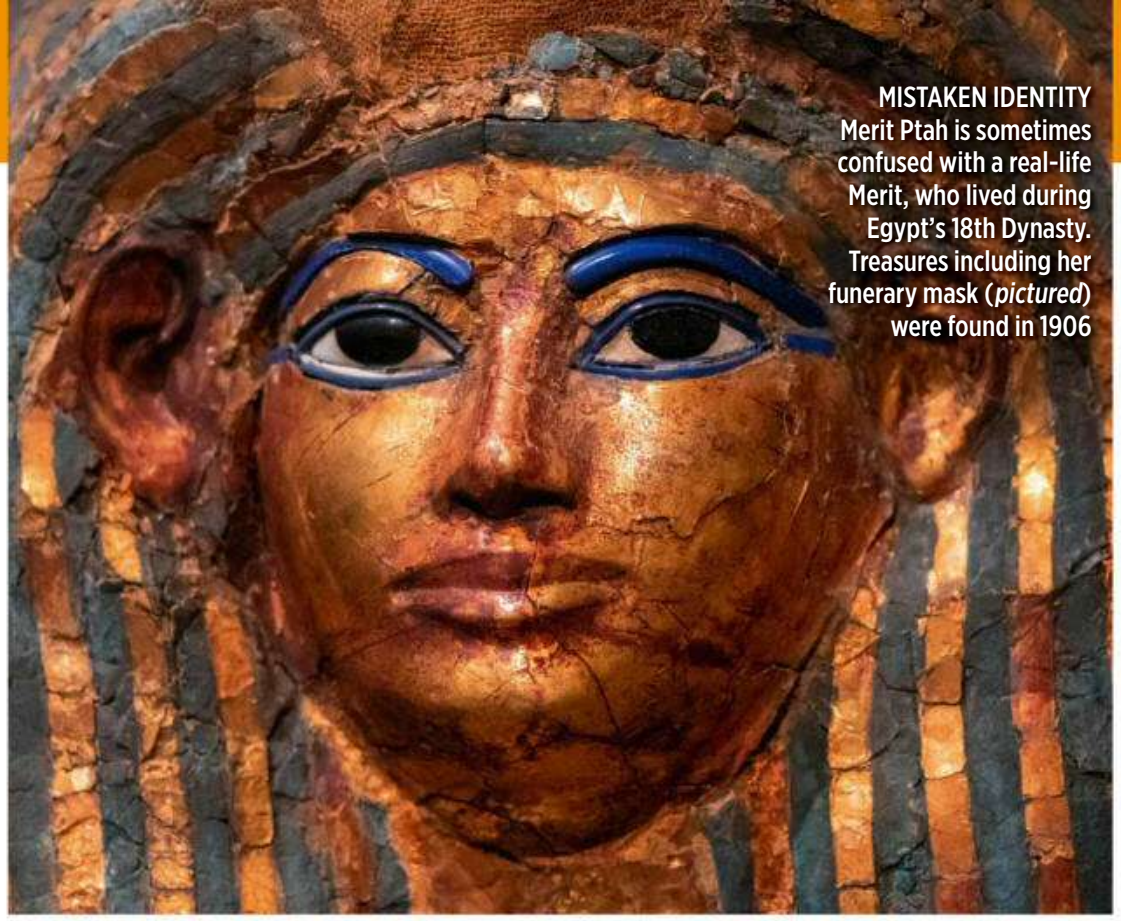
LONG ANSWER Needless to say that in utterly desperate times, the scared masses of 14th-century Europe turned to desperate measures to try and live through the Black Death. Some of the 'cures' aren't that unusual in the pantheon of strange (and ineffective) medicinal treatments throughout history, such as bloodletting and drinking arsenic or mercury, but that's just the beginning.

Believing that the disease spread in foul air – the miasma theory – some people would carry anything sweet smelling, like flowers or packets of herbs, while others took the opposite approach and hid from the killer vapours by sitting in sewers. Having fires constantly burning, abstaining from meat, imbibing a variety of potions, or crushing emeralds into a powder and mixing it with food were all touted as ways to keep the Black Death at bay. And the poor needn't worry if they couldn't get hold of emeralds to crush: a unicorn horn would apparently suffice.

This is not to say there weren't some sensible ideas, as people in medieval times were as used to terms like quarantine and social distancing as we have become in the last couple of years. Let's be grateful, though, that the same last-ditch remedies for those who got sick with the Black Death aren't recommended today, including bathing in urine, rubbing faeces on the skin, or, as English doctor Thomas Vicary espoused, tying a live chicken to the body (once the chicken's bottom had been plucked, of course).

GOING IN FOR THE SPILL
Some medieval doctors practised bloodletting in a bid to prevent patients from dying of plague

GETTY IMAGES X1, ALAMY X1



MISTAKEN IDENTITY
Merit Ptah is sometimes confused with a real-life Merit, who lived during Egypt's 18th Dynasty. Treasures including her funerary mask (*pictured*) were found in 1906

Did Merit Ptah exist?

SHORT ANSWER A female doctor from ancient Egypt or a case of mistaken identity?

LONG ANSWER Merit Ptah was the world's first female doctor, who lived during the Second Dynasty of Egypt around 2700 BC and worked as a chief physician, no less. In recent years, she has joined the ranks of remarkable historical women whose lesser-known stories are finally being told. But there is one problem: she probably wasn't a real person.

There is no such name in the lists of ancient Egyptian healers. In fact, the first mention of Merit Ptah was in a 1938 book by the feminist medical historian Kate Campbell Hurd-Mead.

The basis of Hurd Mead's claims about Merit Ptah (meaning beloved of Ptah, the god) was a mention in a tomb in the Valley of the Kings of a high priest, thought to be her son. Yet it seems that the historian made a mistake somewhere and she should have been talking about an entirely different woman, a healer named Peseshet from c2400 BC, instead.

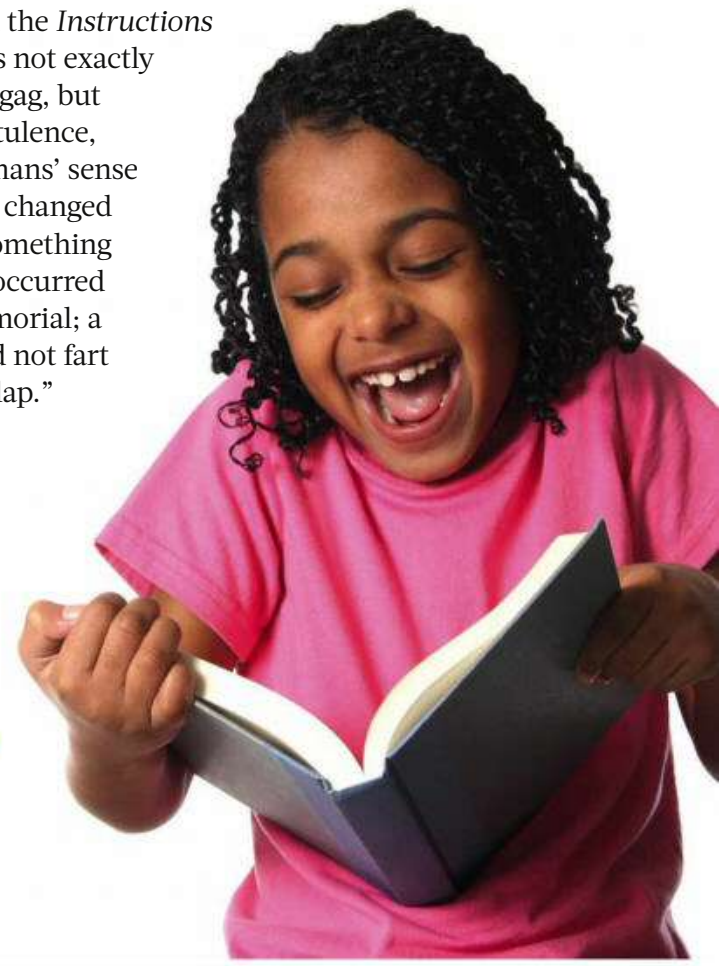
GETTY IMAGES X5, ALAMY X2

What is the world's oldest joke?

SHORT ANSWER Be careful with that joke, it's an antique

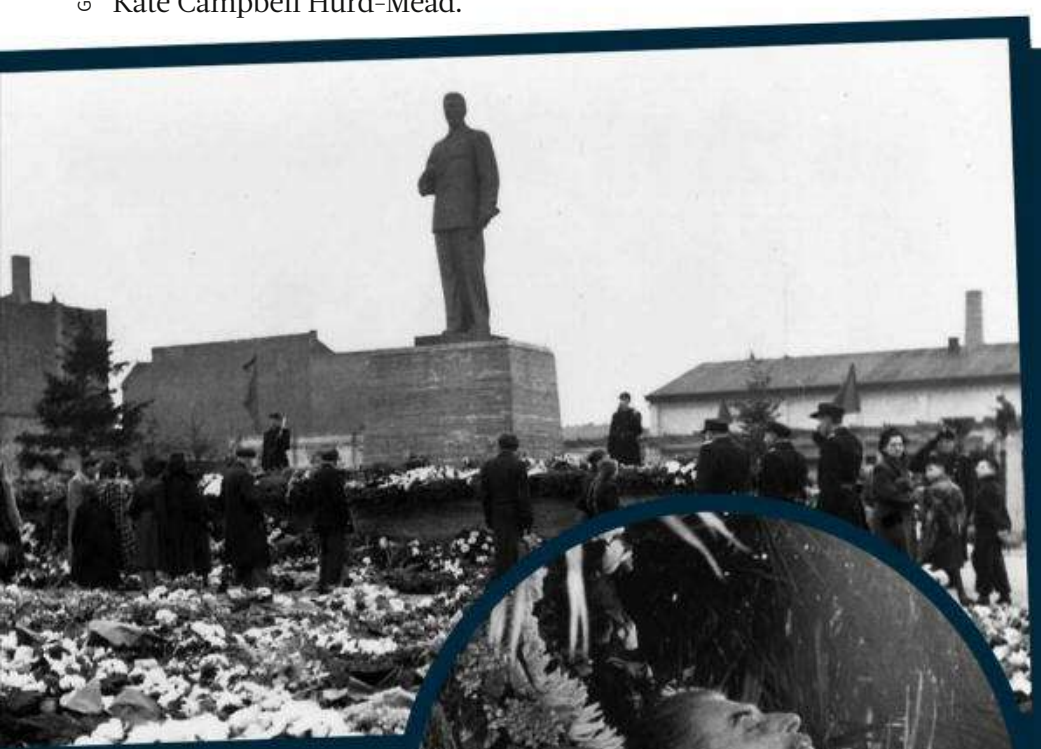
LONG ANSWER In 2008, a team from the University of Wolverhampton made a list of the oldest jokes in history. Among them was this saucy one-liner from 10th-century AD Britain: what hangs at a man's thigh and wants to poke the hole that it's often poked before? Answer: A key.

That is far from the oldest, however. For that, we have to go back to the Sumerians, from what is now southern Iraq in around 1900 BC. Found in a collection of proverbs called the *Instructions of Shuruppak*, it's not exactly a laugh-out-loud gag, but it does involve flatulence, showing that humans' sense of humour hasn't changed much. It goes: "Something which has never occurred since time immemorial; a young woman did not fart in her husband's lap."



336

The number of galvanised steel panels that make up the surface of the Lovell Telescope Dish at Jodrell Bank, Cheshire, the largest in the world when it was built in 1957.



A DESPOT DIES
Millions of people across the USSR gathered to pay their respects to Stalin, including citizens of East Germany (*above*). His body lay in state for nearly eight years (*right*)

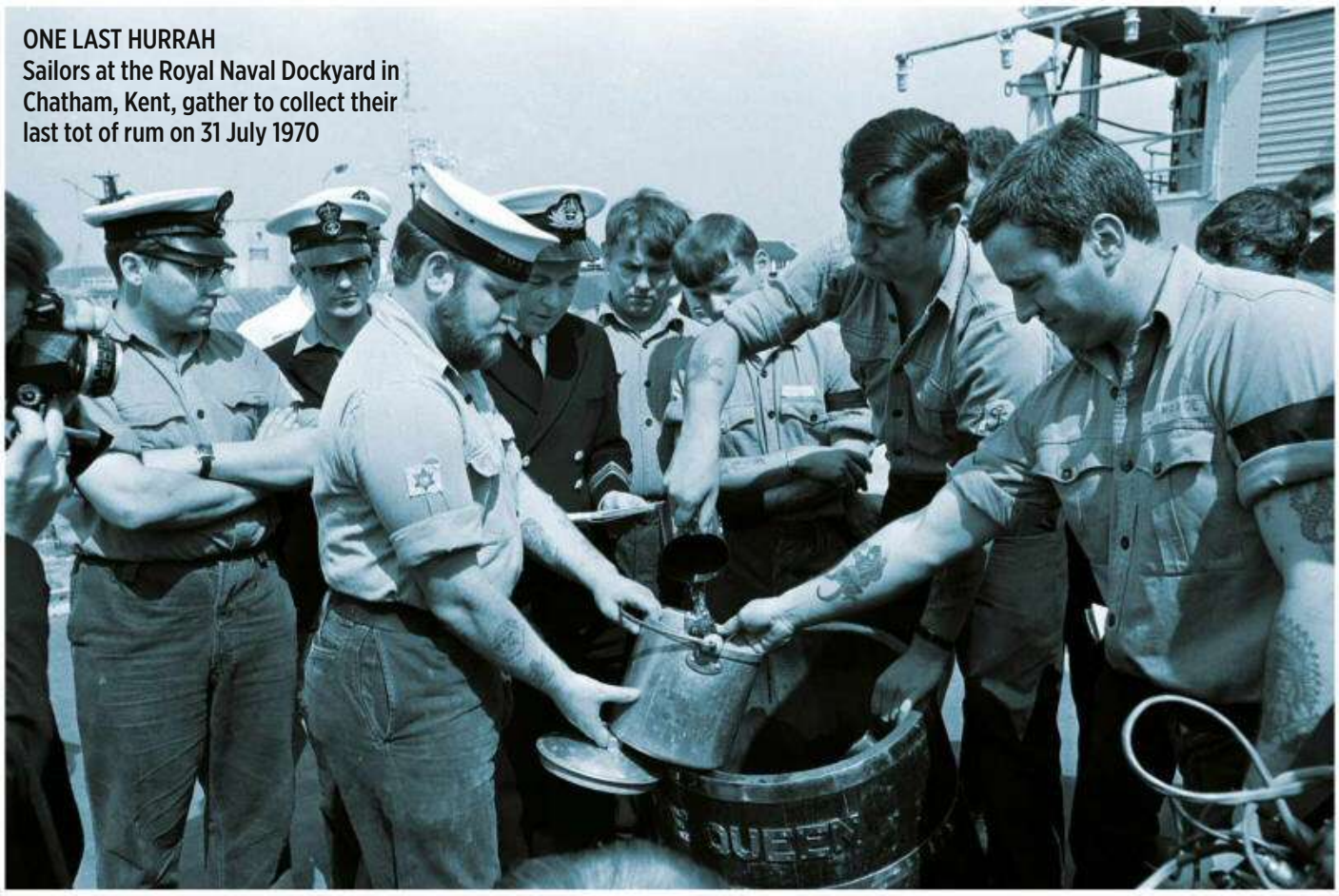
How did Russians react to Stalin's death?

SHORT ANSWER His propaganda machine and cult of personality ensured that he got a heartfelt send off

LONG ANSWER On 5 March 1953, Joseph Stalin, premier of the Soviet Union, died. Four days earlier he had suffered a brain haemorrhage, but it was hours before he was found as his staff were terrified of disturbing him. And when they discovered him collapsed on the floor, the news was kept secret. Incidentally, Stalin had recently ordered a purge of doctors.

The news of his death was met with despair by many Soviets, who had grown up bombarded with propaganda that depicted Stalin as a benevolent father figure and communist hero, rather than a megalomaniacal dictator who had overseen decades of purges and repressions. Of course, there were Soviets who were pleased to see him gone, but this meant the weeks after his death saw a rise in arrests.

Stalin's body was placed in the House of Unions in Moscow to be visited by hundreds of thousands of weeping, reverential Russians, but at one point there were so many that a crush is estimated to have killed around 100 people.



ONE LAST HURRAH
Sailors at the Royal Naval Dockyard in Chatham, Kent, gather to collect their last tot of rum on 31 July 1970

What was 'Black Tot Day'?

SHORT ANSWER **Like Captain Jack Sparrow, Royal Navy sailors were left asking: "Why is the rum gone?"**

LONG ANSWER For centuries, sailors in the Royal Navy looked forward to the time each day six bells (11am) that they received their rum ration. The beverage of choice had previously been beer, but in 1731 an official shift was made to spirits, which were cheaper, took up less space, and did not spoil.

Over time, the ration had to be cut from half a pint a day to a 70ml tot to tackle problems with drunkenness on duty. Yet as the technology of ships evolved and seafaring became more sophisticated in the 20th century, any level of intoxication was deemed unacceptable. So, what did they do with the drunken sailors? The answer: they took away their rations.

The matter was discussed in the House of Commons in the so called Great Rum Debate, before the final ration was eventually dispensed to the less than thrilled sailors on 31 July 1970, which became known as 'Black Tot Day'. Black armbands were worn, tots were buried at sea (poured overboard) and one training camp even held a funeral procession.

But the rum wasn't entirely gone. Nine years after Black Tot Day, a spirit known as Pusser's Rum started to be sold to the general public using the Navy's original recipe.

DID YOU KNOW?

SIZE DOESN'T MATTER?

Ancient Greek statues tended to show men with small penises. It was seen as a sign of intelligence and self-control, whereas having a large phallus was associated with animalistic lust and stupidity.

TEA ADDICT

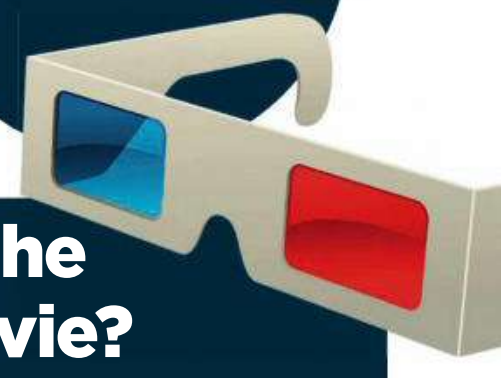
According to the archives of Aberdeen Lunatic Asylum, a woman was admitted in 1848 for "abuse of tea". She was released from the Scottish institution a year later, having apparently recovered.

ILLUSTRATED INVENTOR

The American inventor Thomas Edison had a tattoo on his right forearm of a quincunx: a geometric symbol comprising four dots in a square around a dot in the middle (like how the five is shown on dice).

CUT DOWN

Among the many words in the English language that come from Old Norse, 'hundred' originated from 'hundrath'. However, the word meant 120, not 100.



Why were lightning rod umbrellas invented?

SHORT ANSWER **Intended to protect the user from rain and lightning, their greatest success was actually in fashion**

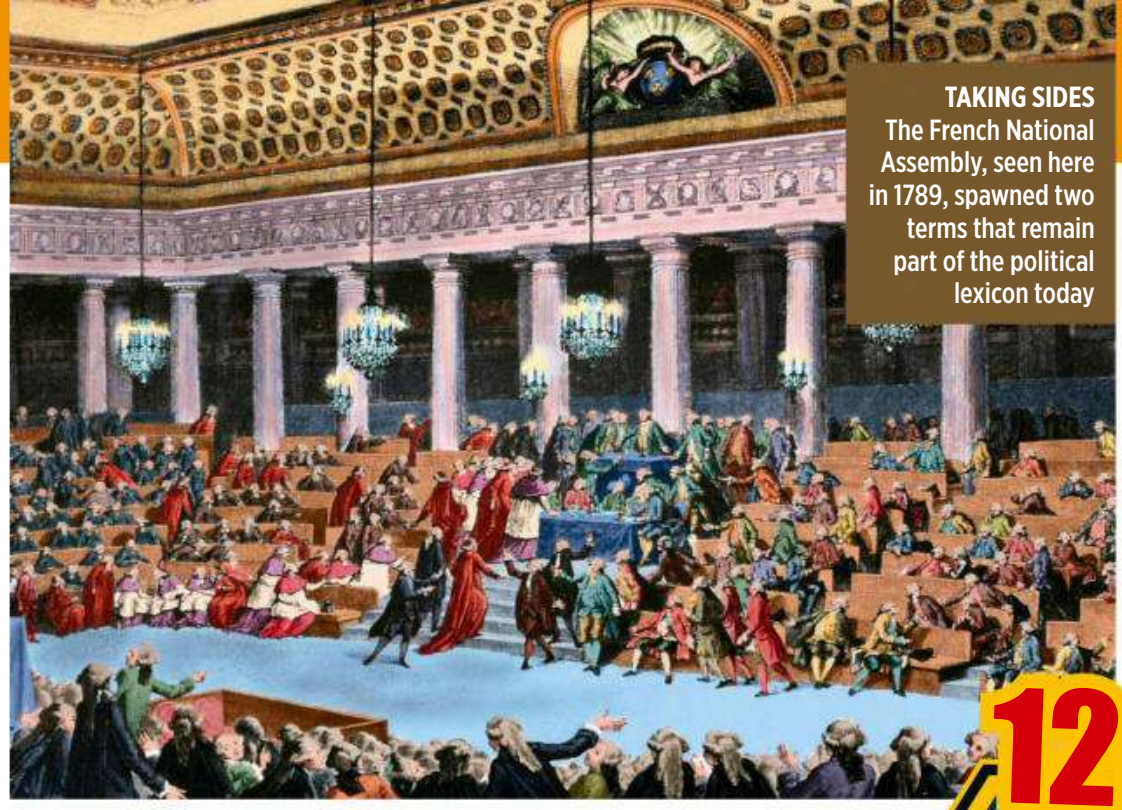
LONG ANSWER The French physician Jacques Barbeu Dubourg devoted his life to science, writing his own works and translating those of the revered American polymath Benjamin Franklin. Equally interested in experimentations with electricity, he also invented the *parapluie paratonnerre* an umbrella with a metal spike on top and a chain hanging to the floor to offer protection from lightning strikes. The idea was that the electricity, once the bolt had hit the spike instead of the person, would flow harmlessly through the chain. As for the women of Paris, they wore special hats fitted with lightning conductors. Both items became noted fashion statements, but it is not known how many times they were put to the test.

STRIKING ATTIRE
Barbeu-Dubourg's invention appealed to fashionable Parisians

What was the first 3D movie?

SHORT ANSWER **Far from being new, 3D predates cinema's golden age**

LONG ANSWER The first commercial 3D movie was released a full five years before the first feature-length talkie, *The Jazz Singer*. Stereoscopic technology was being patented as early as the 19th century, and on 27 September 1922 an audience at the Ambassador Hotel Theater in Los Angeles was treated to a 3D projection of the romantic drama, *The Power of Love*. Although now lost, the film was developed by Harry K Fairhall and Robert F Elder, and the effect was created by projecting two differently coloured strips of the film on top of each other. While this experiment was a success, the 3D cinema experience really got going in the 1950s.



TAKING SIDES
The French National Assembly, seen here in 1789, spawned two terms that remain part of the political lexicon today

Where do the terms ‘left wing’ and ‘right wing’ come from?

SHORT ANSWER Politically charged terms came from a politically charged chapter in history

LONG ANSWER The reason why liberals are left wing and conservatives are right wing can be found in the fractious atmosphere of the French Revolution. In the summer of 1789, members of the National Assembly gathered to draft a new constitution for the country and reach a resolution in the major dispute over the role that should be played by King Louis XVI.

Two factions quickly emerged and literally staked their claim to a section of the hall, with the anti-royalists to the left of the assembly president and aristocratic supporters of Louis on the right. Soon, every member felt compelled to pick their side and everything written about the assembly’s debates included references to the progressives as being on the left and traditionalists on the right. This seating arrangement persisted throughout future legislative bodies in France, until the 19th century, when the terms were coming to be used to refer to ideologies, not just location.

126
The number of Shakespeare sonnets addressed to the ‘Fair Youth’, an unnamed young man. The identity of the chap the Bard was writing about remains the subject of speculation.

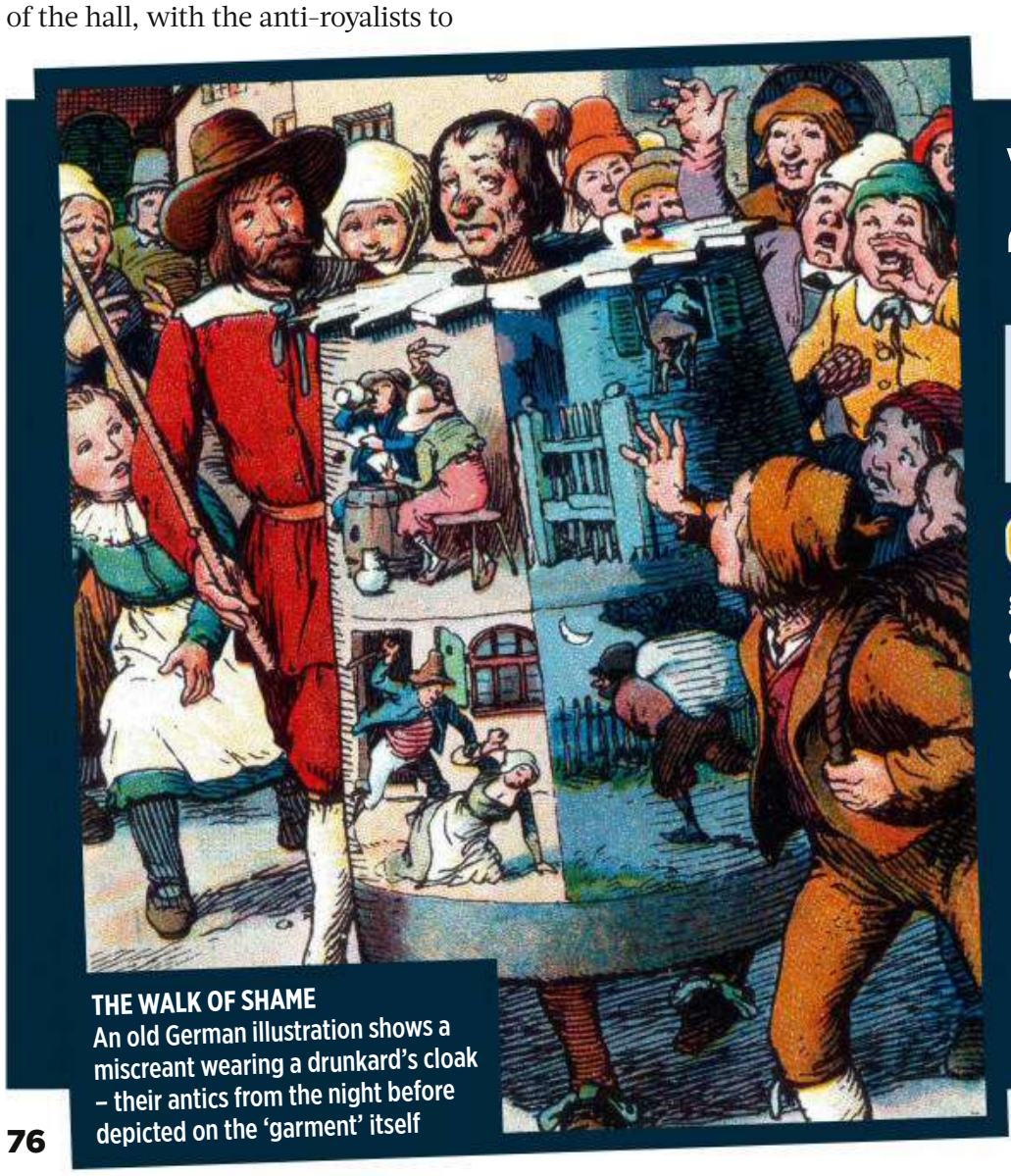
Who was Sam Hill?

SHORT ANSWER How in the Sam Hill are we to know!?

LONG ANSWER Watch enough westerns and you’re bound to hear some old timer utter the expression, “What in the Sam Hill is that!?” It’s 19th-century slang for the ‘devil’ or ‘hell’, so the real Sam Hill must have been quite a character to merit the euphemism. Except, there is no way of knowing who he was, or if there was even a real ‘Sam Hill’ in the first place.

The first published mention is in a newspaper article from 1839, which reads: “What in sam hill is that feller ballin’ about?” The fact that the name isn’t capitalised may suggest it’s not referring to a real person, but that hasn’t stopped numerous contenders being put forward – the most common being a surveyor who had such a proclivity for cussing that his friends started using his name as a swear word.

MAN OF MYSTERY
Rather than being the name of a Wild West hero, the elusive ‘Sam Hill’ may not have existed at all



THE WALK OF SHAME
An old German illustration shows a miscreant wearing a drunkard’s cloak – their antics from the night before depicted on the ‘garment’ itself

What was a ‘drunkard’s cloak’?

SHORT ANSWER Once they crawled out of the barrel in the morning, drunks had to get right back into it

LONG ANSWER It’s nothing to do with getting so inebriated that you don’t feel the cold on a night out. The drunkard’s cloak was an early modern punishment for those who drank a bit too much, or made a spectacle of themselves while intoxicated, or drank when they shouldn’t have. Or all three.

Rather than a cloak, it was actually a barrel with a hole in the top, which would be worn by the wrongdoer. With their head poking out and maybe their arms in further holes in the sides, the wearer was then paraded through town and humiliated. This form of pillory was widely used during the no-nonsense period of Oliver Cromwell’s Commonwealth, when drunkenness was punished harshly. It also became known as a ‘Newcastle cloak’ in the north of England, while in 16th and 17th-century Europe it was called a *Schandmantel* (‘coat of shame’) or ‘Spanish mantle’.

GETTY IMAGES X5, ALAMY X2

DOUBLE TROUBLE
Kray twins Reggie (*left*) and Ronnie (*right*) were locked in the Tower of London, mere minutes after arriving there for National Service

Who was the last inmate of the Tower of London?

SHORT ANSWER The Kray twins were no strangers to prison, but perhaps not a medieval fortress

LONG ANSWER The Tower of London had some big names behind bars during its 850 year stint as a prison, going back to inmate number one: Ranulf Flambard, bishop of Durham, jailed in 1100 for extortion. Among them were royals who fell victim to rivals, including Henry VI during the Wars of the Roses, Anne Boleyn for getting on Henry VIII's bad side, and, of course, the ill-fated Princes in the Tower.

Guy Fawkes was invited to stay when the Gunpowder Plot was uncovered in 1605, and as the fortress remained in use as a prison until the 20th century, deputy Nazi leader Rudolf Hess spent a few days there in 1941, after flying to Scotland as part of a failed peace mission. As for the last inmate, the honour is shared by the notorious gangster twins of London's East End in the 1950s and 60s, Ronnie and Reggie Kray.

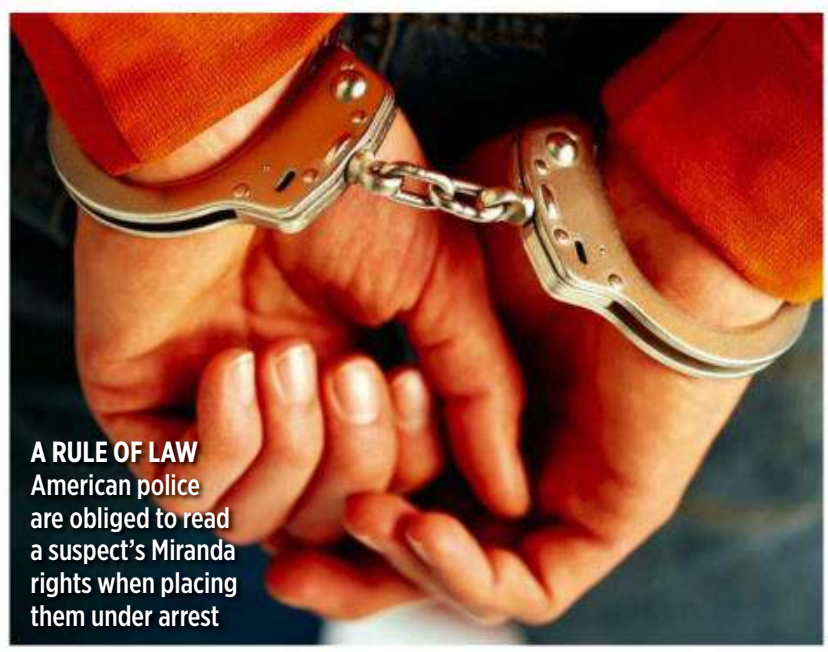
It wasn't for their careers in organised crime that saw them locked up. In 1952, the Krays were called up for National Service with the Royal Fusiliers stationed at the Tower, but feeling that this wasn't for them, they tried to leave after just a few minutes. Ronnie even punched a corporal in the jaw. They were arrested and imprisoned, although that didn't exactly put them off their lives of crime.

When were the Miranda rights introduced?

SHORT ANSWER Since 1966, police in the US have required reading at every arrest

LONG ANSWER "You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. You have the right to an attorney. If you cannot afford an attorney, one will be appointed to you. Do you understand these rights?"

These words, the staple of every US cop show, were originally created in 1966 following the Supreme Court case Miranda v Arizona, in which a man named Ernesto Miranda was convicted of robbery, kidnapping and rape after giving a confession without a lawyer present. Miranda was ultimately reconvicted, but his case changed US police procedure forever.



A RULE OF LAW
American police are obliged to read a suspect's Miranda rights when placing them under arrest

Who was the 'greatest German living'?

SHORT ANSWER Overcoming physical disability, Matthias Buchinger was a polymath for the ages

LONG ANSWER Matthias Buchinger was a gifted magician, artist, calligrapher and musician of the 17th and 18th centuries. He could play numerous instruments, including the flute, trumpet, oboe, bagpipe, dulcimer and others of his own invention. In front of enraptured audiences all over Europe, he showed off his magic acts, card tricks and expert marksmanship with a pistol.

His art was commissioned by royals and he had such skills in micrography (where an image is created through miniscule writing) that, in one particular self-portrait, the curls of his hair are made up of the words of psalms and the Lord's Prayer.

But what made him come to be known as the 'greatest German living' was the fact that Buchinger had been born, in 1674, without hands or legs. When fully grown, he measured just 29 inches tall. Yet in an age where disability was little understood and widely ridiculed, he rose above all.

VERY LITTLE TALENT
Buchinger showcased his skills across Europe, dying in Ireland in 1740

SEND US YOUR QUESTIONS

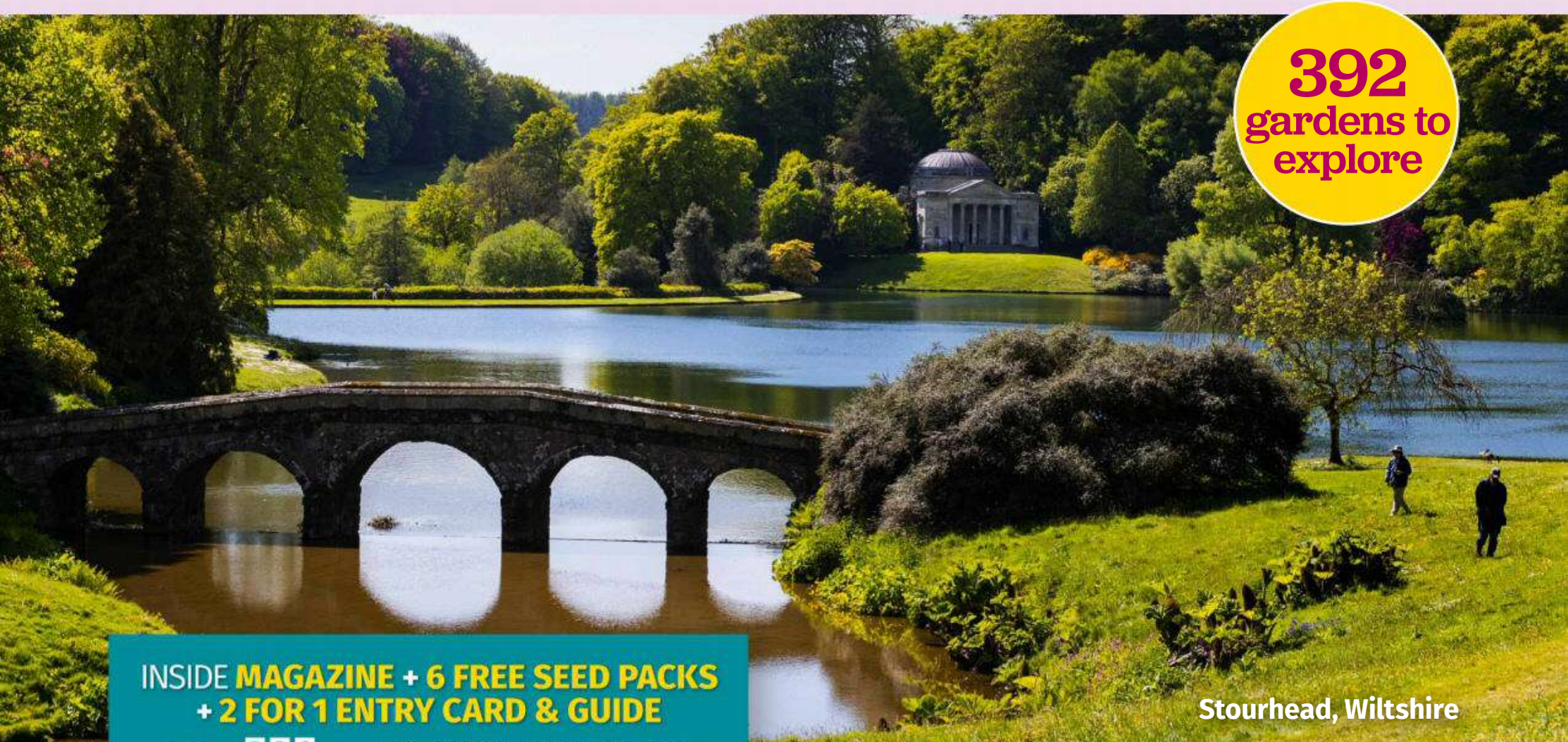
facebook.com/HistoryExtra
twitter.com/HistoryExtra
@HistoryExtra

MORE Q&A ONLINE

Visit ***historyextra.com*** for more astounding history mysteries.

2 for 1 Days Out

Discover the rich history of many of the nation's best-loved gardens



INSIDE MAGAZINE + 6 FREE SEED PACKS
+ 2 FOR 1 ENTRY CARD & GUIDE
BBC Gardeners' World
Plus SAVE 10% on your plant shopping – see over
VALUE PACK
JUST £7.50
392 gardens to visit
2 FOR 1 ENTRY
Card & Guide 2022
Valid until April 2023
HONDA
SAVE £££s
Including ▪ Kew Gardens SAVE £19.50
▪ Leeds Castle SAVE £32
▪ Bodnant Garden SAVE £14
▪ Nymans SAVE £15
FREE SEEDS worth £13.80
Growing in pots
Small space veg
EXPERT ADVICE
Get set for your best summer in the garden with wisdom from Monty, Alan, Carol and more
£7.50

PHOTO: NATIONAL TRUST IMAGES/CHRIS LACEY

For days out and staycations, our 2 for 1 Entry Card will save you £££s with every garden visit.

Includes the 2 for 1 Entry Card & Guide 2022

- ✔ Reusable card valid until April 2023
- ✔ 392 gardens to explore nationwide*
- ✔ Allows one free entry with one full-paying adult

Plus

- ■ 6 packs of free seeds worth £13.80
- ■ The May issue, packed full of garden know-how and inspiration
- ■ 10% off online shopping – plants and gardening accessories

ON SALE: 14 April or buy online at magsdirect.co.uk/gwmay22

BBC Gardeners' World magazine

Terms & Conditions: *Some restrictions may apply. Seeds available in mainland UK only. The 2 for 1 Entry Card & Guide is available in the UK and Republic of Ireland only. Additional P&P charge for online sales.

TV, FILM & RADIO

THE LATEST DOCUMENTARIES, BLOCKBUSTERS AND PERIOD DRAMAS

ONE TO WATCH

Footage of Notre-Dame ablaze shocked viewers around the world, and led to millions of euros being raised to support its restoration

WINDFALL FILMS X1, ALAMY X1

Restoration on an epic scale

Rebuilding Notre-Dame II (title TBC) / BBC Two, April

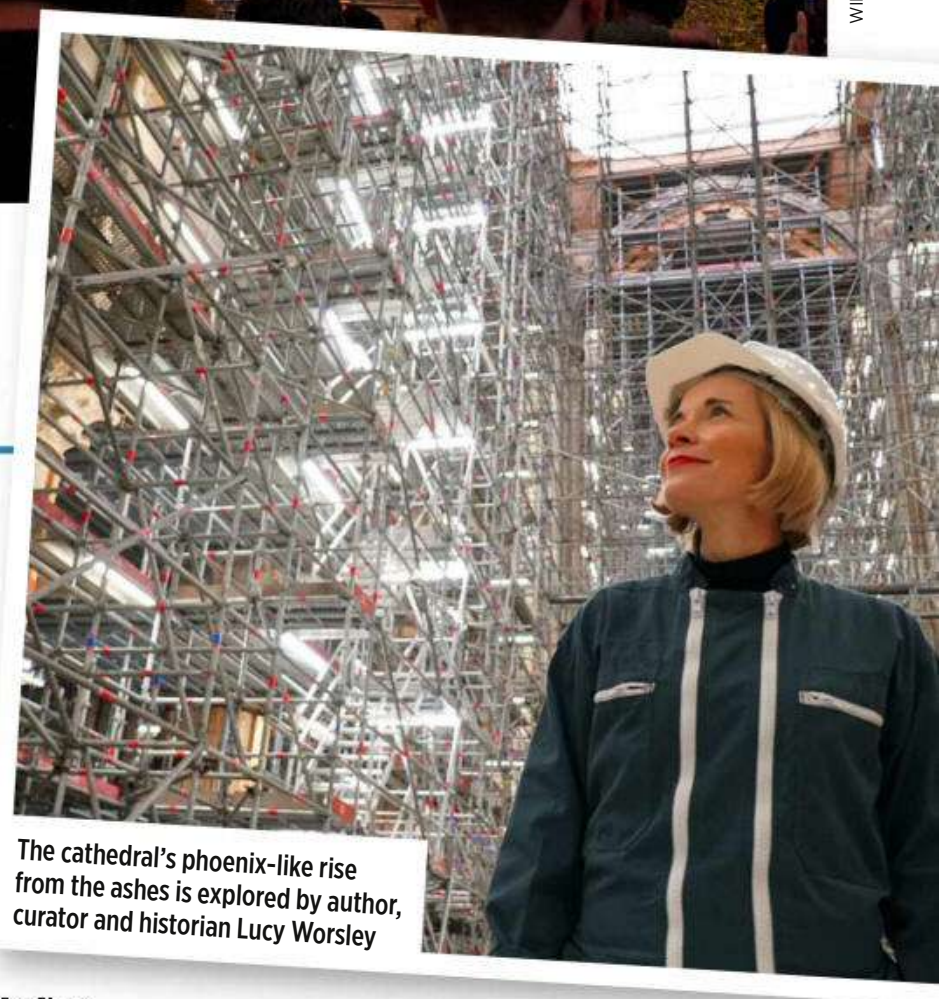
On 15 April 2019, with millions watching on in horror as news footage beamed around the world, Notre Dame de Paris caught fire. As many as 500 firefighters, one of whom was seriously injured, fought the blaze, but the damage was huge. The spire and the beams that supported the roof were lost but, somehow, the main structure of the building was saved.

Three years later, efforts are ongoing to restore the medieval cathedral to its former glory. Despite the extent of the damage, it's hoped that Notre Dame, a powerful symbol of France, even more so since the fire, will reopen in time for the Paris Olympics in 2024.

"The way the restoration has proceeded has been, to my mind, very French," says Lucy Worsley, presenter of a new BBC documentary about this vast project, and someone who has visited a site so contaminated with melted lead from the ceiling that visitors have to change clothes and shower when they leave. "There's a purpose and direction about the work that Napoleon would have admired! In England, I imagine that three years on after such a fire we'd still be talking and thinking about it and arguing about who might pay."

The scale of the work is boggling. To reconstruct the spire, for example, the restoration team has had to source 1,000 large trees. Meanwhile, conservators dealing with salt in the stone vaulting, caused largely by the water needed to fight the blaze, "are testing out techniques like poulticing... on a scale and with an urgency they've not previously known."

It's clear Worsley regards it as a privilege to have seen this work at first hand. "The great moments in Notre-Dame's history have included Napoleon's coronation and General de Gaulle's celebration of liberation after World War II," she tells *BBC History Revealed*, "but this labour, this spectacle, is so dramatic it competes even with those."



The cathedral's phoenix-like rise from the ashes is explored by author, curator and historian Lucy Worsley

The new series of BBC Two's *Pilgrimage* ends with a visit to Iona Abbey, founded by Saint Columba in AD 563

Robert Eggers' star-studded historical epic sees a chiselled (and blood-soaked) Alexander Skarsgård play Amleth – a Viking prince hell-bent on revenge

Norsing a grudge

The Northman / In cinemas from Friday 15 April

Perhaps it has something to do with the international success of the TV series *Vikings* and *The Last Kingdom*, but stories of the medieval era, especially those involving blood-soaked battles played out under brooding skies, appear to be in vogue at the moment. American screenwriter and director Robert Eggers, whose psychological horror films *The Witch* (2015) and *The Lighthouse* (2019) both attracted rave reviews, is the latest to travel back to the era in search of inspiration.

The Northman is set at the turn of the 10th century in Iceland. Here, the life of a young Viking prince, Amleth, is changed forever after his uncle kills his father. The plot may have parallels with *The Lion King*, but it's safe to say the tone is rather darker. It comes as no surprise to discover this is a story that was a direct inspiration for Shakespeare's *Hamlet, Prince of Denmark*.

Co-scripted by Eggers and Icelandic novelist and poet Sjón, the plot follows Amleth, played by Alexander Skarsgård, a man who has been spending serious amounts of time in the gym, as he plans his revenge. The supporting cast, which includes Nicole Kidman, Björk and Willem Dafoe is seriously starry.

As to whether Amleth's odyssey is an authentic Icelandic saga, the historical jury is out in that no such poem has survived, and the earliest versions of the tale date from the 12th and 13th centuries. But expect attention to detail. Archaeologist Neil Price, a professor in the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History at Uppsala University, Sweden, was on hand as historical advisor.

The cast also features Nicole Kidman as Queen Gudrún, Amleth's mother

Footsteps and faith

Pilgrimage: The Road to the Scottish Isles / BBC Two & BBC iPlayer, April

The format of *Pilgrimage* is straightforward. Each series follows a disparate group of celebrities on a walk both geographical and spiritual. This year's offering finds seven pilgrims, including interior designer Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen, who describes himself as a non-conforming pagan, cricketer Monty Panesar, a practising Sikh, and Jewish actor Louisa Clein travelling through Ireland and Northern Ireland, and across the water to Scotland.

Over three episodes, they follow a 1,600km route associated with the Irish monk Saint Columba, a key figure in spreading Christianity throughout the British Isles. Beginning in Donegal and ending in the Inner Hebrides, the pilgrims visit several religious sites along the way, ranging from an early Christian cave to a modern mosque.

2021 FOCUS FEATURES, LLC X2, GETTY IMAGES X4, ALAMY X1

Past lives

Time Travels / BBC Radio Scotland & BBC Sounds, Saturday 16 April

For several years now, the history output from BBC Radio Scotland has been superb. It's both distinctive in, for obvious reasons, tackling Scottish stories, and universal in the way it tells these stories. It's therefore great news that *Time Travels*, a show that consistently highlights the latest historical research, is back for a new run.

The first two shows of the series have a strong emphasis on women's stories as, for example, in the opening programme, Professor Elizabeth Ewan introduces us to Alison Rough, a 16th-century Edinburgh war widow who lost her husband at Flodden, at which the English defeated an invading army commanded by James IV of Scotland. It's the story of a woman who overcame huge difficulties, only for her life to take a terrible turn as the result of her daughter's marriage to a violent man.

Proving that overlooked stories can also be found closer to our own time, the episode then sees historian Kristin Hay look back at 'shotgun weddings' in the 1970s, an era when attitudes towards unmarried mothers in Scotland were often at best puritanical.

In the second show, we also hear about a database of women's letters written in Scots between the years 1450 and 1625, as well as an 1856 murder involving the death of a "female husband" in Dundee, someone whose 'secret' may have been widely known. What does this tragic case tell us, asks Dr Hannah Telling, about attitudes towards transgender people within working-class communities at this time?

Looking slightly further ahead, episode three tackles the subject of food on the nation's railways and the rise of the dining car.

MAIN: **A memorial at Flodden, Northumberland – the scene of a gruesome battle discussed in a new episode of *Time Travels***

RIGHT: **In complete contrast, the BBC Scotland series will also explore the rise of the dining car**

Late Edition
ONE DOL
BRITISH TASK FORCE STARTS PATROLLING ARGENTINA'S COAST
OUTLOOK ON TALKS GLOOMY
As Diplomacy Goes On, London Is Now Said to Favor U.N. Falkland Trusteeship

Lost at sea

Belgrano / BBC Radio 4, Monday 2 May

Taken by Lieutenant Martín Sgut after he abandoned ship, the photographs of the stricken Argentine light cruiser ARA *General Belgrano* sinking into the depths are among the most haunting images of the Falklands War. The vessel had been hit by torpedoes fired by a British submarine, HMS *Conqueror*. In all, 323 people, including two civilians, perished in the attack.

But should *Belgrano* have ever been targeted? At the time, it was **outside a British-declared 200-nautical mile Maritime Exclusion Zone (MEZ). Despite Argentine naval units being under orders to seek out Britain's naval task force, the military junta described the attack as "a treacherous act of armed aggression" and controversy raged over whether the action was justified.**

This was fuelled in 1985 when a senior British civil servant, Clive **Ponting (1946–2020), leaked documents that suggested *Belgrano* was sailing away from the MEZ when it was torpedoed. But why did Ponting leak the documents? And why, when he was tried for his breach of the Official Secrets Act, did he walk from court despite the judge directing the jury to find him guilty?**

This two part radio drama, written by Richard Monks, draws on **primary sources to outline what happened, with John Heffernan playing the role of Ponting.**

The controversy stemming from the Royal Navy's sinking of ARA *General Belgrano* on 2 May 1982 forms the subject of a new BBC Radio 4 drama

Due south

Downton Abbey: A New Era / In cinemas from Friday 29 April

The second big-screen outing for the Crawleys and their faithful staff arrives just in time for the Bank Holiday weekend.

The story this time around is focused on Maggie Smith's dowager countess, Violet Crawley, and her inheritance of a villa in the south of France. Why has it been left to her?

Pretty soon, the whole family is heading to visit. Their departure, to judge by the trailer, is hastened by a film crew using Downton as a location and disrupting the running of the house.

EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS

WHAT TO SEE AND WHERE TO VISIT IN THE WIDER WORLD OF HISTORY

Manuscripts decorated by the abbey's monks will be reunited in their place of origin for the first time since 1539

PHIL MORLEY X 3, STUART WALKER X2, YORK MUSEUMS TRUST X2, TRANSPORT FOR LONDON/LONDON TRANSPORT MUSEUM X2, THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM

EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS

Abbey of St Edmund: 1000 Years

PAID ENTRY Various venues in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, throughout 2022, *visit-burystedmunds.co.uk/abbey-1000*

The abbey was reduced to ruins following Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries

Back in 2020, as the Covid-19 pandemic caused everyday life to come grinding to a halt, museums and heritage attractions across the globe were forced to put their events programmes on hold. For sites that were supposed to be celebrating key anniversaries, such as the Abbey of St Edmund (founded in 1020) this must have been especially disappointing, given the months of hard work that had gone into planning the festivities.

Fortunately, thanks to the recent easing of restrictions, the attraction has now been given the green light to commence its Abbey 1000 programme, featuring an exceptional variety of events aimed at the whole family.

Every month between May and November, there will be a changing display of sculptures in the abbey's ruined crypt, featuring work by artists and local schools, while between 2 May and 8 June, seven rare manuscripts created by the abbey's monks will be exhibited in the Treasury at St Edmundsbury Cathedral.

Over the weekend of 14 15 May, a group of Benedictine monks and nuns will gather in the abbey ruins for the first time since the Dissolution of the Monasteries, and on 17–20 November, there will be a light show to coincide with the feast day of Saint Edmund himself: the abbey's namesake and England's first patron saint.

Elsewhere, the abbey's history as a site of pilgrimage and worship will be marked with an exhibition at the nearby Moyse's Hall Museum (1 July – 30 September), featuring examples of pilgrim badges collected by visitors who flocked from across Europe to see Edmund's shrine.

For the full events programme, which also includes guided walks and concerts, visit the website address above.

A seven-foot-tall sculpture of a monk will initially form part of a changing exhibition held in the abbey's crypt

The Newstead face mask (*left*) and the Ilam Pan (*below*) both feature in the Carlisle exhibition

EXHIBITION

To the Edges of Empire

PAID ENTRY Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery, Carlisle, until 12 June, *tulliehouse.co.uk*

A new exhibition marking 1,900 years since construction began on Hadrian's Wall has opened at Carlisle's Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery.

Shining a light on everyday life during the second century AD, the display brings together an assortment of objects from the farthest reaches of the Roman empire, including the Newstead face mask a bronze parade mask found at the site of Trimontium Fort in what is now the Scottish Borders.

Other treasures on show include the Ilam Pan, an inscribed 'souvenir' that was probably owned by a soldier who had once served on Hadrian's Wall itself, plus items found in North Africa, Syria, Germany and Eastern Europe.

EXHIBITION

Legacies: London Transport's Caribbean Workforce

PAID ENTRY London Transport Museum, open now, *ltmuseum.co.uk*

The contributions made by people of Caribbean heritage on the capital's trains, trams and buses is the focus of a new exhibition on show at the London Transport Museum.

Spanning the 1950s to the present day, the display explores the variety of challenges that have greeted employees upon arriving in Britain, such as homesickness, as well as their many triumphs.

Visitors can also hear oral history interviews from transport workers both past and present, bringing the topic to life in vidid detail.

Employees' testimonies and recruitment adverts (*left*) aim to illuminate the experiences of Caribbean transport workers

EXHIBITION

The Ryedale Hoard: A Roman Mystery

PAID ENTRY Yorkshire Museum, York, open now, *yorkshiremuseum.org.uk*

Having closed for essential repairs over the winter months, the Yorkshire Museum has now reopened with a new exhibition showcasing all four items from the Ryedale Hoard a collection of Roman bronzes discovered by metal detectorists near Ampleforth in May 2020.

The impeccably preserved objects, which include a 1,800 year bust of Emperor Marcus Aurelius and a figurine of a horse (*both shown right*), are each displayed alongside historical context about Roman Yorkshire, while visitors are invited to ponder who may have originally buried the hoard and why.

The exhibition will mark the first time that the Ryedale Hoard has been on public display in Yorkshire

EXHIBITION

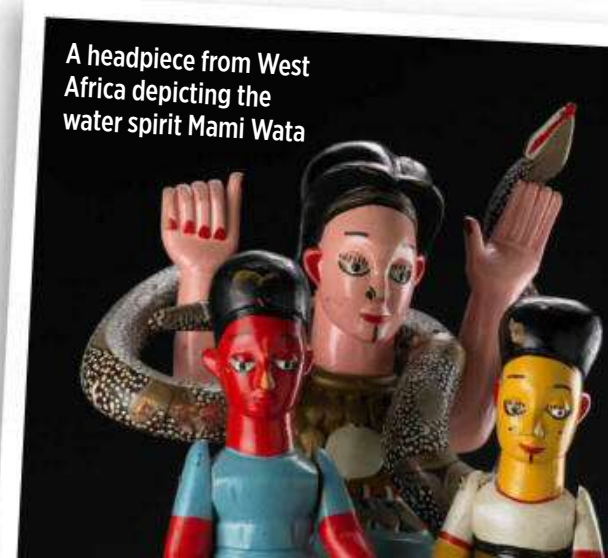
Feminine Power: The Divine to the Demonic

PAID ENTRY British Museum, London, 19 May – 25 September, *britishmuseum.org*

Female deities and other spiritual beings have played a pivotal role in some of the world's major religions and belief systems. But how have these figures affected the way that we view femininity and gender today?

An exhibition at the British Museum seeks to answer just that, bringing together an array of artefacts and artworks from across the globe. Highlights on display include an incantation bowl from Iraq showing the 'she-demon' Lilith, plus a statue of the Hindu goddess Kali by sculptor Kaushik Ghosh.

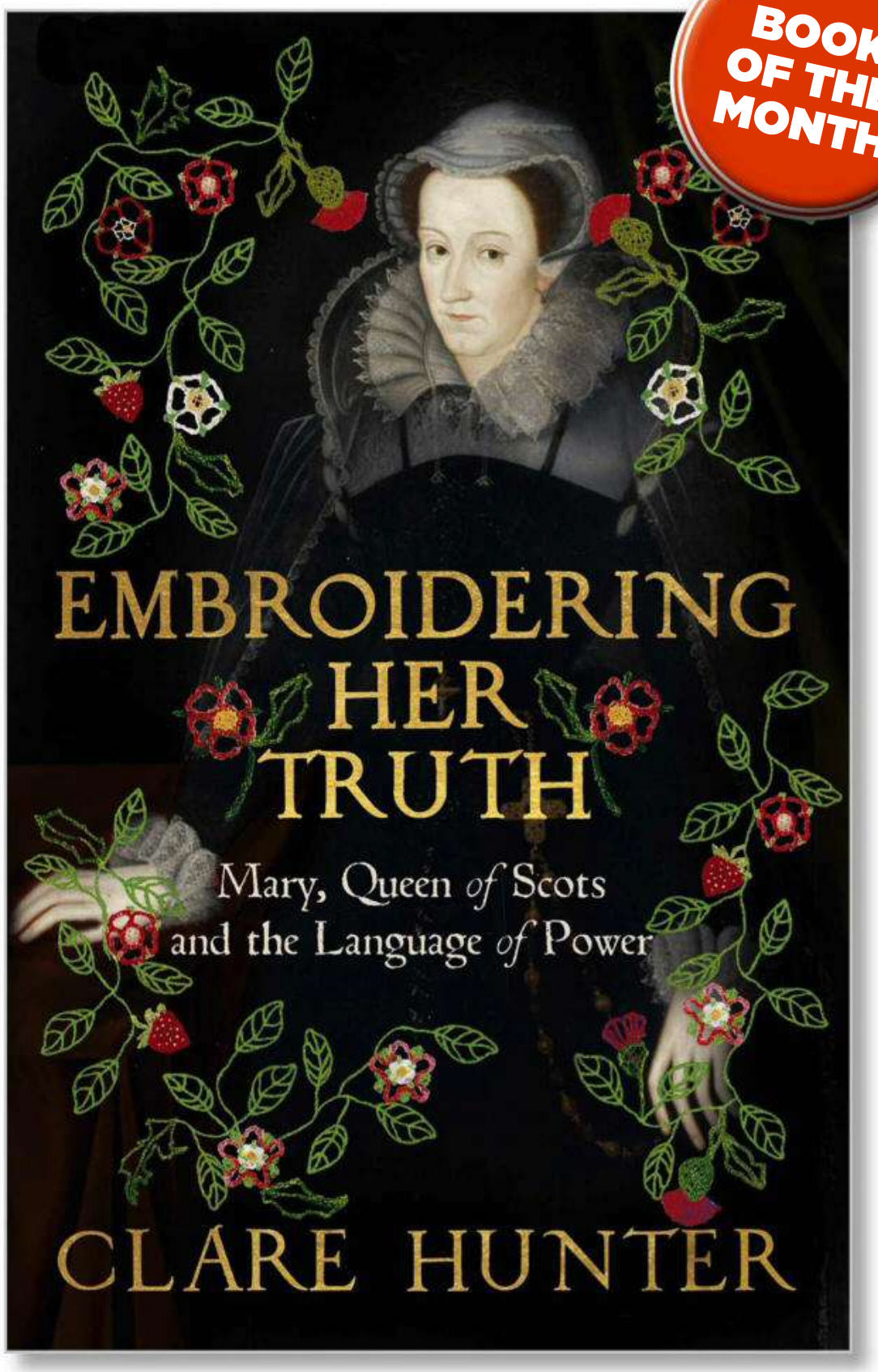
Elsewhere, visitors can explore insights into the topic from the likes of classicist Professor Mary Beard and writer Deborah Frances-White.



A headpiece from West Africa depicting the water spirit Mami Wata

BOOKS & PODCASTS

THIS MONTH'S BEST HISTORICAL READS AND LISTENS



Embroidering Her Truth: Mary, Queen of Scots and the Language of Power

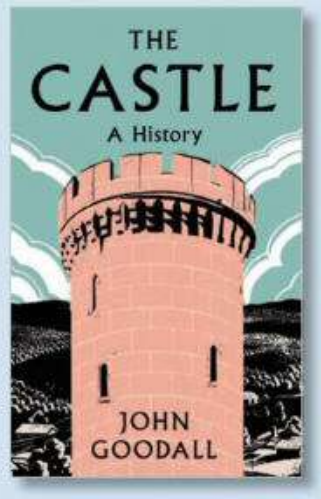
By Clare Hunter
Sceptre, £20, hardback, 416 pages

This revealing account looks at the reign of Mary, Queen of Scots through an unusual lens: the textiles she owned, embroidered, and gave away as gifts. What may sound niche to our 21st century sensibilities were key expressions of power in the 16th century particularly to women, whose ability to explore or influence their world was limited. It's a fresh take on a fascinating period, and one that also serves to cast the Scottish queen in a new light.

The Castle: A History

By John Goodall
Yale, £18.99, hardback, 400 pages

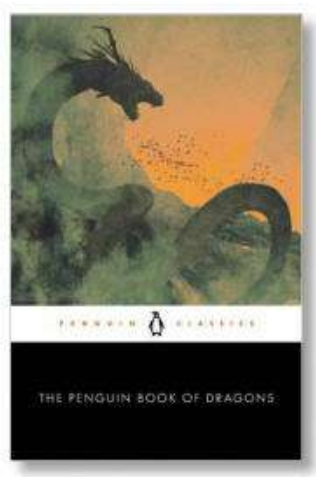
Places to live and work, reign and rule, and defend or intimidate the local population: castles performed a wide range of functions, often simultaneously, across hundreds of years of Britain's history. This lively, literary book illuminates each of these facets by drawing on the accounts of people who were there at the time, and also sets out to explain why castles continue to exert such a pull on our imagination today, in the 21st century.

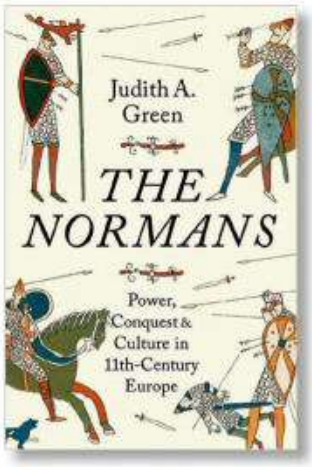


The Penguin Book of Dragons

Edited by Scott G Bruce
Penguin Classics, £12.99, paperback, 320 pages

From the ancient world to epic TV fantasies, tales of dragons are intertwined with centuries of human history as JRR Tolkien's Smaug was coiled around his hoard of treasure. This edited collection features excerpts from a rich variety of sources describing such menacing, mysterious creatures, each with accompanying historical context. Beowulf faces a fire breathing monster in an epic poem; a Chinese herbologist praises the benefits of the beast's bones; and a German adventurer warns of wild dragons, roaming the very fringes of knowledge.





The Normans: Power, Conquest & Culture in 11th-Century Europe

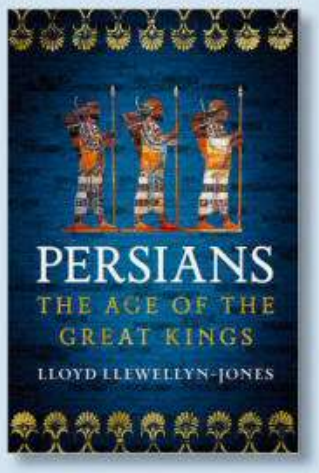
By Judith A Green
Yale, £25, hardback, 368 pages

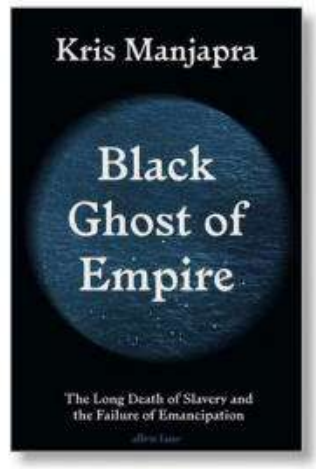
If a time machine was to deposit us 10 centuries ago, as the Normans were spreading across Europe, how recognisable would the events and people we encountered be to our popular understanding of the period? That's a central question of this book, which seeks to puncture some of the more overblown myths about the dynasty and its achievements – often perpetrated by the era's own chroniclers. In doing so, it never loses sight of the real personal relationships at the heart of the story.

Persians: The Age of the Great Kings

By Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones
Wildfire, £25, hardback, 448 pages

Spanning an enormous region from southeastern Europe to the steppes of Asia, the empire of the ancient Persians was – at its height in around 500 BC – the largest that had ever existed until that point. Yet, as this major new book argues, our view of the civilisation has been warped by accounts written by other cultures, most notably the ancient Greeks. Lloyd Llewellyn Jones sets out to put that right, offering a vibrant portrait of the dynasty's highs and lows, triumphs and failures.





Black Ghost of Empire: The Long Death of Slavery and the Failure of Emancipation

By Kris Manjapra
Allen Lane, £20, hardback, 256 pages

The abolition of slavery, when it finally came to various parts of the globe, is often regarded as an ending – as a distinct point in the story of enslaved people. Yet, as this provocative book argues, emancipation brought with it a new set of injustices: continued prejudice, additional forms of oppression, and a lack of reparation that persisted for many decades. Kris Manjapra's account tells this longer story, and the ways in which these historical ghosts continue to haunt us in the 21st century.

PODCAST WHAT TO LISTEN TO...

Each month we bring you three of our favourite podcast offerings from the BBC and HistoryExtra

Museums and the Future

bit.ly/MuseumsPod107

Author, broadcaster and curator Neil MacGregor, who headed the British Museum between 2002 and 2015, turns his attention to the ways in which museums around Britain are adapting to a changing society. It's been a rocky few years for historical institutions, but he argues that they still very much have a role to play in how we understand the past – and shape the future.

Putin

bbc.in/3wgmZO2

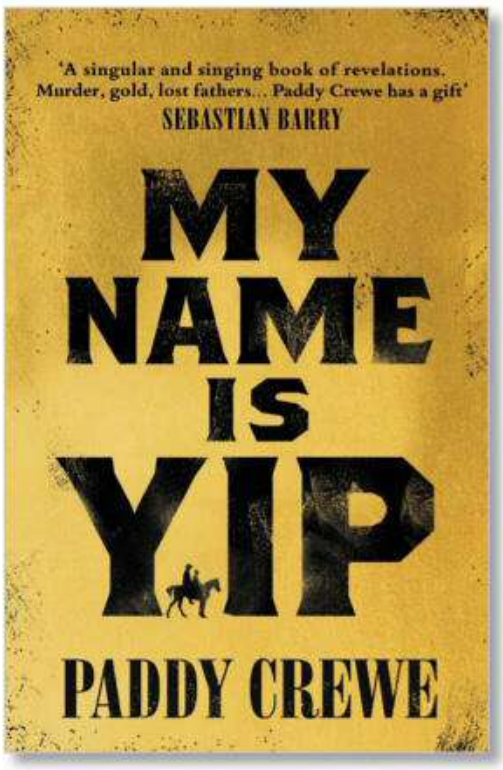
Russia's invasion of Ukraine at the end of February thrust its leader, Vladimir Putin, along with his motivations and ambitions, firmly into the spotlight. This new BBC Radio 4 podcast series sees acclaimed journalist Jonny Dymond and a trio of experts look back at the history of both the man and his country in order to make better sense of his decisions in the present day.

Women Who Made History

bbc.in/3tXdzUW

This instalment of long running BBC World Service programme *The History Hour* celebrates the achievements of five pioneering women who reshaped the world around them in diverse, courageous ways. From an Iranian human rights campaigner to a poet who captured the suffering and terror of Stalinist Russia, these are stories that deserve to be better known.

GETTY IMAGES X2


'A singular and singing book of revelations. Murder, gold, lost fathers... Paddy Crewe has a gift'
SEBASTIAN BARRY
MY NAME IS YIP
PADDY CREWE

My Name is Yip

By Paddy Crewe
Doubleday, £14.99, hardback, 384 pages

Born in the US state of Georgia in 1815, young Yip Tolroy has never spoken a word. As a mute person, he struggles as a friendless outcast but, when he reaches his 15th year, his life changes forever. After committing a terrible crime, Yip is forced to flee his home and join an unlikely companion, Dud Carter, on the road. As the Gold Rush arrives in Georgia, the duo embark on a dangerous journey that takes them through a menacing world of travelling shows, escaped slaves and greedy treasure seekers.

Excerpt

The novel opens with Yip introducing himself to the reader

My name is Yip Tolroy & I am a mute. I have made not a sound since the day of my birth, October 2nd, 1815. I will say that my life has been something of a trial but such is God's wish & so I must tell my story here on the page.

Indeed I should thank Him for these 3 fingers left me, they might still hold a quill & feel the ink flow free beneath them. I did leave them other 2 where they lay & I have dreams still of the rains feeding them like greentip shoots where in that spot now stands a Hand, the wrist a smooth-barked bole & a Hundred Fingers wagging like branches in the breeze.

Answers have not ever come easy to me. By all accounts they is like teeth – you can try pull them clean out but even then they will likely Splinter & Crack & there will be nothing but a palmful of dust at the end of it. Here is a lesson worth attending to – no One or Thing comes into this world whole & it is in the search of what is gone missing that our lives do find their meaning. That is the truth of it.

W.A.R.

Q&A
Paddy Crewe

Born in Stockton-on-Tees, Paddy Crewe studied at Goldsmiths, University of London, where he was tutored by American writer and critic Erica Wagner. *My Name is Yip* is Paddy's debut novel, which he began writing while an undergraduate.

Where did you get your inspiration from?
Inspiration is a tricky thing to pin down: it doesn't necessarily come in just the one visit, but drifts in and out over a period of time. A few years ago, I was reading up on the American Civil War, when I came across the Georgia Gold Rush. What most appealed about it was how little attention it had received. Everybody has heard of the California Gold Rush, but the one in Georgia, nearly 20 years earlier, seemed to have been forgotten. For a novelist this is a real gift: the less investigated an event is, the more freedom the imagination is given.

Why did you decide to make Yip mute?
What makes writing exciting is the possibility of exploring lives and experiences far removed from my own. That's not to say that one should take on such a challenge lightly. There's always research to be done, and you have to make sure that you've worked to make your characters as full and credible as possible. But it's a writer's duty to use their imagination and making Yip mute really stretched me. It forced me to go beyond what I thought I knew.

What would you like readers to take from your novel?
What readers take away from the book is entirely up to them. The real hope is that it might touch people in some way that I couldn't possibly have imagined when I wrote it. If that happens, I'll be happy.

How did you tackle researching the period?
Research is essential when writing about any historical period, and I accumulated a large folder of notes before I'd even started writing. Occasionally I would refer to these, but what I think is the key to writing about the past is the ability to put your research to one side and, if not forget it, then keep it firmly at the back of your mind. It's there to be applied as lightly and delicately as possible, and only when needed. The reader wants a story, not a lesson.

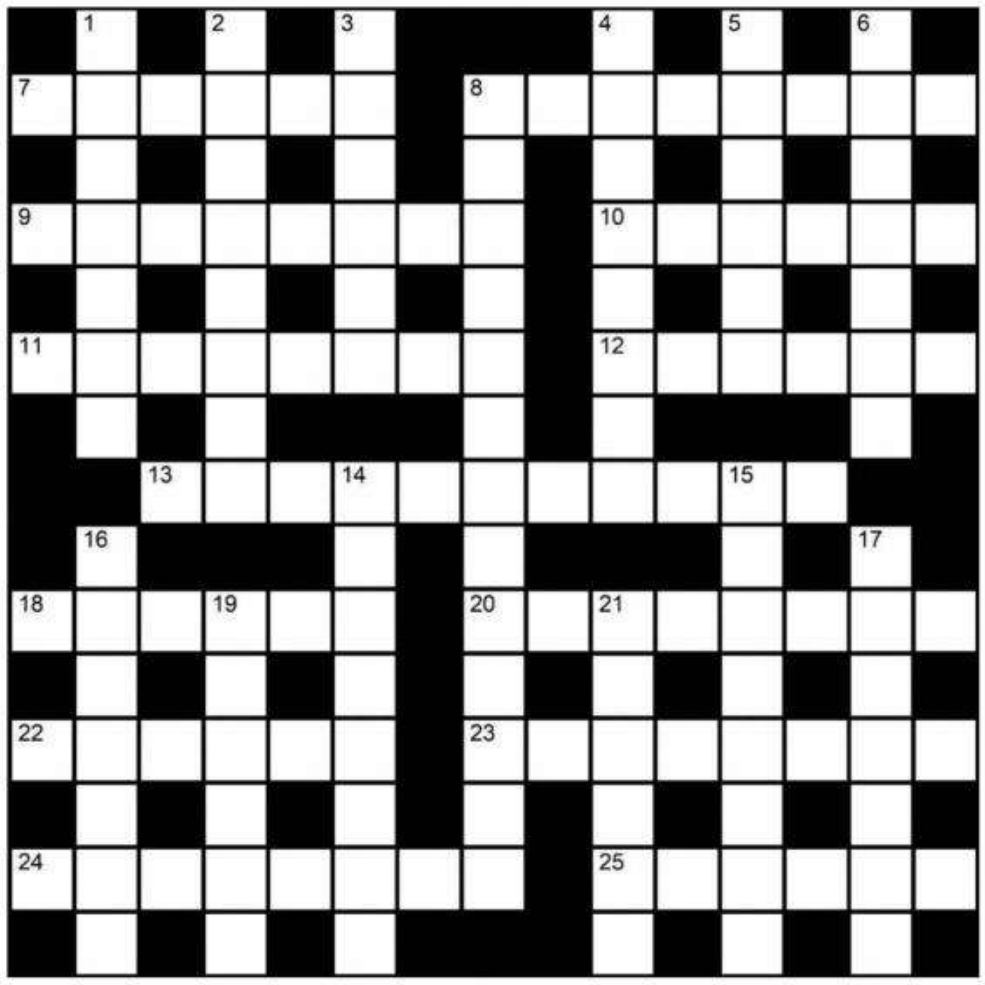
What other periods are you interested in?
There's no period of history that I wouldn't be interested in writing about. I've been thinking about setting something in early 18th-century England – there's something very vivid about that period in my mind which stirs up ideas. I've started a few things in the past based on certain notables, but quickly found that I yearned for the freedom to invent my own landscapes and characters. At the moment, I'm content to keep making things up.

CROSSWORD

TEST YOURSELF WITH OUR HISTORICAL PUZZLE EVERY ISSUE

CROSSWORD NO. 107

Test your history knowledge to solve our prize puzzle – and you could win a fantastic new book



Set by Richard Smyth

ACROSS

7 Goddess of wisdom in ancient Greece (6)
8 Emir of Afghanistan known as 'The Victor of Maiwand' (1857–1914) (4,4)
9 Saint associated with the island of Lindisfarne (8)
10 Native people of Kenya (6)
11 Albert ___ (1879–1955), German-born physicist (8)
12 Port city in Ukraine, site of a 1905 uprising (6)
13 Informal term for grave-robbers, historically (4-2-2,3)
18 Name shared by four British kings between 1714 and 1830 (6)
20 Historical region also known as Asia Minor (8)
22 ____ D Eisenhower (1890–1969), 34th US president (6)
23 Name taken by 13 popes between AD 401 and 1724 (8)
24 Site of a 1704 battle in the War of the Spanish Succession (8)
25 Jane ___ (1775–1817), English novelist (6)

DOWN

1 Caribbean island nation, independent since 1979 (2,5)
2 Biblically, a pool in Jerusalem (8)
3 European Iron Age culture (2,4)
4 1933 Marx Brothers film (4,4)
5 Illinois village, known for a court case against the National Socialist Party of America (6)
6 Traditional Trinidadian music (7)
8 Religious ideology central to the Free Grace Controversy of 1636–38 (13)
14 Arthur ___ (1905–83), Budapest-born novelist (8)
15 *The* ___, horror film of 1973 (8)
16 Old English epic poem (7)
17 In US history, a settler (7)
19 Classical Latin for 'queen' (6)
21 Trojan hero, subject of an epic by Virgil (6)

CHANCE TO WIN

BOOK WORTH £20 FOR THREE WINNERS

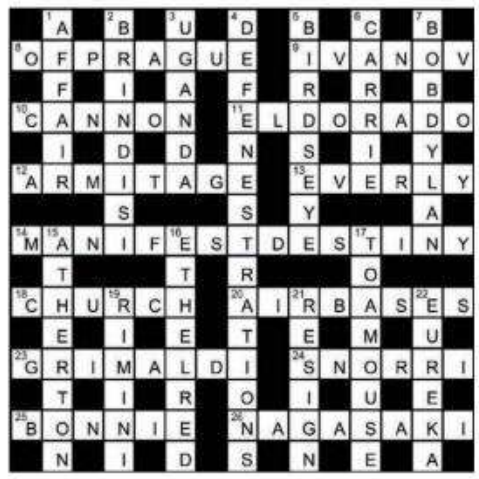
Ancient Rome: Infographics
by Nicolas Guillerat, John Scheid, Milan Melocco and Philip Matyszak

HOW TO ENTER

Post entries to **BBC History Revealed, May 2022 Crossword, PO Box 501, Leicester, LE94 0AA** or email them to **may2022@historyrevealedcomps.co.uk** by noon on **1 June 2022**.

By entering, participants agree to be bound by the terms and conditions shown in the box below. Immediate Media Co Ltd, publishers of *BBC History Revealed*, would love to keep you informed by post or telephone of special offers and promotions from the Immediate Media Co Group. Please write 'Do Not Contact IMC' if you prefer not to receive such information by post or phone. If you would like to receive this information by email, please write your email address on the entry. You may unsubscribe from receiving these messages at any time. For more about the Immediate Privacy Policy, see the box below.
Branded BBC titles are licensed from or published jointly with BBC Studios (the commercial arm of the BBC). Please tick here ☐ if you'd like to receive regular newsletters, special offers and promotions from BBC Studios by email. Your information will be handled in accordance with the BBC Studios privacy policy: *bbcstudios.com/privacy*

SOLUTION Nº 105



CROSSWORD COMPETITION TERMS & CONDITIONS

The competition is open to all UK residents (inc. Channel Islands), aged 18 or over, except Immediate Media Co London Ltd employees or contractors, and anyone connected with the competition or their direct family members. By entering, participants agree to be bound by these terms and conditions and that their name and county may be released if they win. Only one entry per person.

The closing date and time is as shown under **How to Enter**, above. Entries received after that will not be considered. Entries cannot be returned. Entrants must supply full name, address and daytime phone number. Immediate Media Company (publishers of ***BBC History Revealed***) will only ever use personal details for the purposes of administering this competition, and will not publish them or provide them to anyone without permission. Read more about the Immediate Privacy Policy at www.immediatemedia.co.uk/privacy-policy. The winning entrants will be the first correct entries drawn at random after the closing time. The prize and number of winners will be as shown on the Crossword page. There is no cash alternative and the prize will not be transferable. Immediate Media Company London Limited's decision is final and no correspondence relating to the competition will be entered into. The winners will be notified by post within 28 days of the close of the competition. The name and county of residence of the winners will be published in the magazine within two months of the closing date. If the winner is unable to be contacted within one month of the closing date, Immediate Media Company London Limited reserves the right to offer the prize to a runner-up.
Immediate Media Company London Limited reserves the right to amend these terms and conditions or to cancel, alter or amend the promotion at any stage, if deemed necessary in its opinion, or if circumstances arise outside of its control. The promotion is subject to the laws of England. Promoter: Immediate Media Company London Limited

LETTERS

Elizabeth I is a monarch who inspires a range of opinions, admits historian Dr Nicola Tallis

WHAT IF...
KING EDWARD VIII HADN'T ABDICATED?
Historian and author Dr Susan Williams tells Jonny Wilkes about the possible outcomes had the lovestruck king married Wallis Simpson while keeping his place on the throne
IN CONTEXT
"THERE IS EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT EDWARD'S REPUTATION WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN BADLY DAMAGED"

Linda Weiss Rose was surprised that our recent feature on Edward VIII dismissed claims that he was a Nazi sympathiser

INCOMPETENT OR INSPIRING?

Having read the recent Essential Guide to Elizabethan England (March 2022), I regret that you chose to accept, without question, the self-promotion of Elizabeth I and perpetuate the mythologising of an incompetent leader whose only achievements were in spite of her rather than of her own making – Shakespeare's dramas being a notable example.

The Spanish invaded because the defence of the realm (unlike during her father's reign) was not a priority and even something as significant as gunpowder was in short supply. Elizabeth behaved cowardly during the invasion, yet took credit for what was, in effect, the abject failure of the Spanish. She then failed to honour those who took part by demobilising them without pay, some sailors subsequently dying in destitution in places like Margate. Further, her counter-Armada resulted in defeat.

Threats were a part of life but no previous monarch had seen fit to establish such an intricate web of spies. Trust was in short supply, thought alone becoming a treasonable offence. Relationships were difficult for her, notably in the taking of a partner; this resulting in virginity being lauded over motherhood and any discussion of the succession becoming a capital offence, ultimately leaving the country in a state of limbo. Executions have not been quantified but, ethically, the buck stops at the top and Elizabeth should accept responsibility for the killings rather than blame others for, say, the demise of Mary, Queen of Scots.

Colin Robbins, Kent

Dr Nicola Tallis, expert advisor for March's Essential Guide to the Elizabethans, replies:

One of the joys – sometimes frustrations – of history is that it will always be subjective, and often no two interpretations of the same personality or event will be the same. Elizabeth I is no different, and though she continues to be recognised as one of England's most popular queens, her character and achievements have been challenged in recent years.

Elizabeth's turbulent childhood doubtless impacted on her relationships and her policies, but her past also helped to shape her future. Certainly, she capitalised upon the some of the mistakes made during the reign of her half-sister, Mary I, using these to her advantage. Her insecurities could be said to have triggered many of her decisions, and her non-committal approach was something that her enemies came to expect. Similarly, Elizabeth's image was carefully crafted as a propaganda tool throughout her reign, and this was something over which Elizabeth would retain control until the end. It is fair to say that some of Elizabeth's achievements have been overrated, but she also had her successes.

When summarising Elizabeth's reign therefore, we must strike a balance: there were moments of triumph, but she was by no means perfect – she had the same flaws and imperfections as us all.

NAZI SYMPATHIES?

I was very interested to read the recent feature about what might have happened had Edward VIII not abdicated the throne (Christmas 2021). I have read many articles about Edward and his wife, Wallis Simpson, and have just finished the book *Traitor King*, by Andrew Lownie. Every book and article I have read all state that both were friends of Adolf Hitler and his Nazi regime. I was surprised, therefore, that the historical advisor to the piece, Dr Susan Williams, was quoted as saying that this was a misnomer. I'm interested to find out why Dr Williams believes this.

Personally, I am glad that he abdicated because I feel that if he had not, Great Britain would probably have become an ally of the Axis nations.

Linda Weiss Rose, Florida

Dr Susan Williams, historical advisor for the feature, replies:

I was very pleased to read this letter, which reminded me of the journey I went through when writing my book (*The People's King: The True Story of the Abdication*, Allen Lane, 2003). When I started work, I too assumed that Edward VIII was pro-Nazi – that this was the reason he was bounced off the throne by Prime Minister Baldwin. But extensive archival research produced no evidence for this assumption. Instead, I discovered completely different reasons, not least Edward's public sympathy for the sufferings of the poor, and the Establishment's distaste for Wallis Simpson, an American divorcee who was seen as 'common'. There was also concern that Winston Churchill, Edward's champion, might form a King's Party to challenge the government. I was forced by the historical evidence to rethink.

In 2003, government documents relating to the abdication were declassified. I served as historical advisor to The National Archives for this release and I remember that on the day of the press preview, journalists arrived in much excitement, expecting proof of links between Edward and the Nazis. But there was no such proof. They went away disappointed and wrote, instead, about questionable claims by Special Branch that Mrs Simpson had a secret lover named Trundle.

Regarding your final point, the UK is a constitutional monarchy: no monarch has the right to alter government policy and Edward as king could not have made Britain an ally of the Axis nations. In the judgment of the distinguished historian John Grigg, Edward deserves honour for the "perfect constitutional propriety" with which he conducted himself throughout the abdication crisis.

GETTY IMAGES

NEXT ISSUE

··· ON SALE 12 MAY ···

EGYPTIAN PHARAOHS

Discover the power and prestige of Egypt's ancient rulers – from their status as living gods, to the mysteries of Tutankhamun

PLUS... AN A–Z OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II KLAUS FUCHS AND THE ATOMIC BOMB **IN A NUTSHELL: THE MONMOUTH REBELLION** SPOTLIGHT ON CHARLES DICKENS **FIRE AT THE GLOBE THEATRE** AND MUCH MORE...

CROSSWORD WINNERS

The three lucky winners of the crossword from issue 104 are:

P Ainscough, Lancashire
S Fenelon, London
B Hair, North Yorkshire

Congratulations! You've each won a free copy of Dr Garry J Shaw's new book, *The Treasures of Tutankhamun.*

We will post your prizes out as soon as possible.

CONTACT US

facebook.com/HistoryExtra **twitter.com/HistoryExtra** **@HistoryExtra**

EMAIL US: haveyoursay@historyrevealed.com
OR POST: Have Your Say, BBC History Revealed, Immediate Media, Eagle House, Colston Avenue, Bristol, BS1 4ST

SUBSCRIPTION ENQUIRIES:

PHONE: 03330 162 116
EMAIL VIA: *www.buysubscriptions.com/contactus*
OR POST: BBC History Revealed, PO Box 3320, 3 Queensbridge, Northampton, NN4 7BF
EDITORIAL ENQUIRIES: 0117 927 9009

OVERSEAS: In the US/Canada you can contact us at:
Immediate Media, PO Box 401, Williamsport, PA 17703, USA
PHONE: Toll-free 888-941-5623
EMAIL VIA: immediatemedia@buysubscriptions.com

BBC HISTORY REVEALED

ISSUE 107 – MAY 2022

BBC History Revealed is published by Immediate Media Company London Limited under licence from BBC Studios who help fund new BBC programmes

EDITORIAL
Editor Charlotte Hodgman
charlotte.hodgman@immediate.co.uk
Production Editor Jon Bauckham
Staff Writer Emma Slattery Williams
Art Editor Sheu-Kuei Ho
Picture Editor Rosie McPherson
Content Strategist Emma Mason
Digital Editor Elinor Evans
elinor.evans@immediate.co.uk
Digital Section Editors Rachel Dinning and Kev Lochun
Podcast Editor Ellie Cawthorne

CONTRIBUTORS & EXPERTS
Stephen Bates, Rob Blackmore, Benjamin Carp, Paddy Crewe, Tom Cutterham, Rhiannon Davies, Matt Elton, Elinor Evans, Owen Horsley, Matt Lewis, Spencer Mizen, Lisa Moses, Gordon O'Sullivan, Freya Parr, Danny Robins, Richard Smyth, Viscount William Stormont, Nige Tassell, Jonny Wilkes, Jonathan Wright

PRESS & PR
Communications Manager
Natasha Lee *natasha.lee@immediate.co.uk*

CIRCULATION
Circulation Manager John Lawton

ADVERTISING & MARKETING
Advertisement Manager
Sam Jones 0117 300 8145
sam.jones@immediate.co.uk
Senior Brand Sales Executive
Sam Evanson 0117 300 8544
Brand Sales Executive
Sarah Luscombe 0117 300 8530
Group Direct Marketing Manager
Laurence Robertson 00353 5787 57444
Subscriptions Director
Jacky Perales-Morris
Subscriptions Marketing Manager
Kevin Slaughter
Direct Marketing Manager
Aisha Babb
US Representative
Kate Buckley *buckley@buckleypell.com*

PRODUCTION
Production Director Sarah Powell
Production Coordinator Lizzie Ayre
Ad Coordinator Bryony Grace
Ad Designer Julia Young

PUBLISHING
Content Director David Musgrove
Commercial Director Jemima Dixon
CEO Sean Cornwell
CFO & COO Dan Constanda
Executive Chairman Tom Bureau

BBC STUDIOS, UK PUBLISHING
Chair, Editorial Review Boards
Nicholas Brett
Managing Director of Consumer Products and Licensing Stephen Davies
Director, Magazines and Consumer Products Mandy Thwaites
Compliance Manager
Cameron McEwan
UK Publishing Coordinator
Eva Abramik *uk.publishing@bbc.com*

Basic annual subscription rates
UK £64.87 **Eire/Europe** £67.99
ROW £69.00

IMMEDIATE MEDIA CO

© **Immediate Media Company London Limited.**
All rights reserved. No part of *BBC History Revealed* may be reproduced in any form or by any means either wholly or in part, without prior written permission of the publisher. Not to be resold, lent, hired out or otherwise disposed of by way of trade at more than the recommended retail price or in mutilated condition. Printed in the UK by William Gibbons Ltd. The publisher, editor and authors accept no responsibility in respect of any products, goods or services which may be advertised or referred to in this issue or for any errors, omissions, misstatements or mistakes in any such advertisements or references.

recycle

ipso Regulated

GETTY IMAGES

PHOTO FINISH

ARRESTING IMAGES FROM THE ANNALS OF THE PAST

GETTY IMAGES

A FAMILY DIVIDED c1961

After World War II, Germany was split between the Allies, and in 1949 it became two separate countries: the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) and the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany). The former capital of Berlin was itself split in two, with the western portion of the city becoming a West German enclave within Soviet territory. Over the next 12 years, tens of thousands of people fled the poverty and hardship of communist East Berlin and crossed into the West, but in 1961 the borders were sealed and a physical barrier was erected, separating friends and families – such as these residents of West Berlin, showing their child to loved ones on the other side. The wall would stand until 9 November 1989, when the gates were opened and East and West Berliners were finally reunited.

FIRING LINE

Amgueddfa Gwarchodlu Dragŵn y Frenhines a'r Gatrawd Frenhinol Gymreig
Museum of the Queen's Dragoon Guards and The Royal Welsh

Family Fun and Military Conference Weekend

at Firing Line Museum, in Cardiff Castle

In-Person and Online

Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th April 2022

Join us **in Cardiff** for family friendly and fun activities, including remote-controlled tank driving and chainmail making!

For the older ones and adults, come and see our many great hands-on talks happening all weekend, meet-and-greet military authors, or learn about genealogy research.

Join us **online** on Saturday for historic talks on topics such as Waterloo and Victoria Crosses.

Join us **online** on Sunday for talks on the modern army – this is your chance to ask real questions to those who have really served!

For more information, ticketing and to check out a full schedule, please see

cardiffcastlemuseum.org.uk/shop/product-category/april-2022/

or phone Firing Line Museum on

02920 873 623

Firing Line Ltd is a Company Limited by Guarantee (Company No. 6774535) and a Registered Charity (Charity No. 1129084) in England and Wales.

Get your **FREE** step-by-step practical guide to making your will from AGE UK.

Making a will is one of those jobs that’s easy to keep avoiding. We convince ourselves that writing a will is difficult, so we continually put it off to another day. In fact, it’s far easier than you may think. What’s more, it feels great to know you’ve helped ensure your property and assets will go to the people and good causes that you care about.

Age UK’s guide takes you, step-by-step, through everything you need to know to write your will. What do you need to consider? What should be included? When do you need to seek professional advice? How do you update your will, should you want to? Find all the answers – all in easy-to-follow plain English, in this free Age UK guide.

Get your FREE guide to making a will today.

Send the coupon to FREEPOST Age UK Supporter Services.

For your free guide, send to Freepost AGE UK SUPPORTER SERVICES.

We* would like to let you know about the vital work we do for older people, our fundraising appeals and opportunities to support us, as well as the Age UK products and services you can buy. We will never sell your data and we promise to keep your details safe and secure. You can change your mind at any time by writing to us at our registered address below or by emailing us at contact@ageuk.org.uk

☐ No thank you, I **do not** wish to receive communications by post.
☐ Yes please, I would like to receive communications by email.

Title Name Surname

Address

Postcode

Email

One guide per household. AGUK0112 MXLC-22LA05-C002

*We, the Age UK Group, includes the charity, its charitable and trading subsidiaries, and national charities (Age Cymru, Age Scotland and Age NI). Age UK is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales (registered charity number 1128267 and registered company number 6825798). The registered address is 7th Floor, 1 America Square, 17 Crosswall, London, EX3N 2LB. For further details on how your data is used and stored: www.ageuk.org.uk/privacy

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

ID204558 01/21

Individuals' images have been changed to protect privacy and stated experiences may be combined to include and represent the experiences of others.